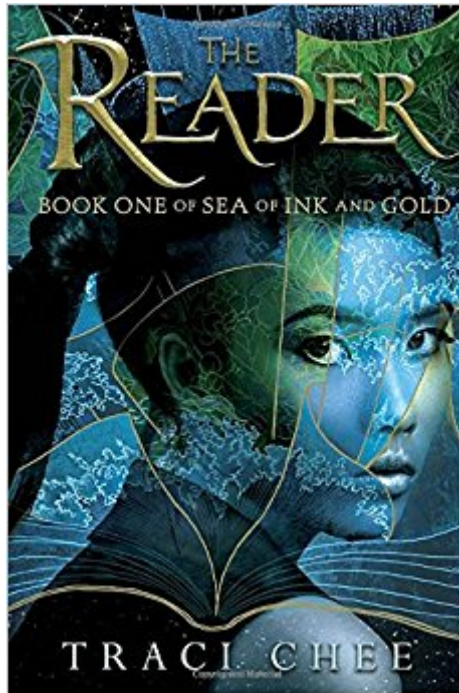




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# The Reader (Sea Of Ink And Gold)



## Synopsis

Instant New York Times BestsellerA stunning debut set in a world where reading is unheard-of, perfect for fans of Inkheart and Shadow and BoneSefia knows what it means to survive. After her father is brutally murdered, she flees into the wilderness with her aunt Nin, who teaches her to hunt, track, and steal. But when Nin is kidnapped, leaving Sefia completely alone, none of her survival skills can help her discover where Nin's been taken, or if she's even alive. The only clue to both her aunt's disappearance and her father's murder is the odd rectangular object her father left behind, an object she comes to realize is a book—a marvelous item unheard of in her otherwise illiterate society. With the help of this book, and the aid of a mysterious stranger with dark secrets of his own, Sefia sets out to rescue her aunt and find out what really happened the day her father was killed—and punish the people responsible. With overlapping stories of swashbuckling pirates and merciless assassins, *The Reader* is a brilliantly told adventure from an extraordinary new talent.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0810 (What's this?)

Series: Sea of Ink and Gold (Book 1)

Hardcover: 464 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (September 13, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399176772

ISBN-13: 978-0399176777

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.5 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 114 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #51,540 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > Teens >

Mysteries & Thrillers > Fantasy & Supernatural #121 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction >

Action & Adventure > Mystery & Thriller #194 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers >

Mystery & Detective

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up "Two curves for her parents. A curve for Nin. The straight line for herself. The circle

for what she had to do." This is the seal branded onto the book that was passed down to Sefia by her parents right before they were murdered by an assassin whose blade reeked of copper. Under the guidance of Aunt Nin, who is a thief, the teen learns to hide and hunt before her mentor is brutally torn away. In solitude, Sefia vows to rescue Nin. She is eventually joined by a strange, mute, and brutalized boy she saves. In a world where books and the very act of reading are limited to a select, powerful few, Sefia begins to understand the weight of her heirloom and what might transpire should it fall into the wrong hands. Sefia digs deep within herself and slowly begins to unlock the power of the written word. This work is deftly rendered in beautiful prose, narrated through three shifting time lines woven into an interconnected history of duty, honor, and magic. Chee provokes some resounding questions: What is there left to be remembered of us after death, and what must we do to be worthy of remembrance? This is a must-have for all those who value a good read with genuine character growth, mystery, unique world-building, adventure, unyielding bonds of loyalty, and pirates. Savvy teens will notice a message scattered through the page numbers. VERDICT A fresh, diverse fantasy; highly recommended for fans of Cornelia Funke's *Inkheart* and female-powered adventures. —Zeying Wang, School Library Journal

Praise for *The Reader*: An ALA Top Ten Best Fiction Pick — 2017 A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year — 2016 Finalist for the 2016 Kirkus Prize A Kirkus Best Book of the Year — 2016 An NPR Best Book of the Year — 2016 A Buzzfeed Best YA Book of the Year — 2016 A Bustle Best YA Book of the Year — 2016 Minnesota Public Radio Best YA Book of the Year — 2016 A Barnes & Noble Best Book of the Year — 2016 A 2016 Nerdy Book Club Award Winner An ABA Indies Choice Honor Book — 2017 — "I was spellbound from the first page. An utterly transportive tale of swashbucklers and sharpshooters, masterfully written. Traci Chee has penned a beautiful novel about the power of story, complete with a fantastic cast of characters and an expertly rendered fantasy landscape. This is a book you will not soon forget." —Renée Ahdieh, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Wrath and the Dawn* — "Deftly rendered in beautiful prose, narrated through three shifting time lines woven into an interconnected history of duty, honor, and magic. — . — . This is a must-have for all those who value a good read with genuine character growth, mystery, unique world-building, adventure, unyielding bonds of loyalty, and pirates. — . — . A fresh, diverse fantasy; highly recommended for fans of Cornelia Funke's *Inkheart* and female-powered adventures. — — — School Library Journal, starred review — "Commanding storytelling and vivid details,

particularly of the magical process of reading, bring the story to life. The first of what promises to be an enchanting series. Kirkus Reviews, starred review. "Chee's debut is an intricate, multilayered reading experience. An exploration of self-determination and the magic of the written word, Sefia's story is an absorbing introduction to the Sea of Ink and Gold series. Publishers Weekly, starred review. "With evocative language, fascinating world building, multifaceted characters, and a compelling plot, this is a series fantasy lovers will want to sink their teeth into. Booklist, starred review. "Most world-building shies away from tackling the question of literacy within fantasy cultures, but here it serves as the beating meta-heart. NPR "Those looking for complex fantasy will enjoy and look for the next installment." School Library Connection

DNF - About 300 pages into this magical/fantasy novel, I simply shut the book in the middle of a paragraph and said, "I don't even care anymore." Truly I didn't. While the premise is excellent and all the hidden nuances about reading and seeing a bigger picture are clever, the writing is lackluster. I felt the characters were stuck in a ravine with no way to grow or get out of the boxes they had all been placed in. I also felt the writing was choppy, for example, when the boy in the box is found, we don't learn his name in the chapter. However, in the next chapter, our main character and the boy from the box are having a conversation and he's referred to by his name. It's up to the reader to figure out who is whom. I dunno, for what the hype of this book has been, it's not. In my opinion.

For a long time, Sefia has only had her aunt, Nin. Ever since her father was murdered, they have been on the run, and Nin teaches Sefia to live in the wilderness. When Nin is suddenly taken, Sefia is determined to save her, even if she has no idea where to start. With the help of a mystery object she learns is a book, a scarred boy with a dark past, and her fierce will, Sefia journeys to save her aunt, discover the secret of her family, and learn to read in a society that is illiterate. Traci Chee's THE READER is a mesmerizing fantasy about the power of words, stories, families, and friendships. Sefia is easily lovable, kind, and strong, and her story is anything but easy. She carries the grief of losing her family around with her and often feels that she could have prevented Nin being taken in the first place. Readers will see something of themselves in her as she discovers more about written words and the book she carries. Throughout the story, there are brief

excerpts from the book she carries around, allowing you to really connect with what Sefia is experiencing. Though romance is a small portion of the book, it demands to be discussed. Sefia and Archer have the sweetest slow-burn/friendship turned to love relationship I have ever read. There are some slow romances where you want to characters to kiss at every turn, and there are some, even more rare for me because I love kissing scenes, where you would happily revel in any scene with both of them, whether they're just hunting for food or sitting silently, enjoying each other's company. Sefia and Archer are both heartbreakingly vulnerable, and the way they learn to lean on each other is nearly tear-inducing. A book about a book, a young woman learning to read while saving her remaining family, a boy whose hands are tough but heart is soft, and an endearing and existential pirate crew come together to make the fantastic experience that is THE READER.

Bought for my adult Daughter. Unfortunately, it was lost and she liked it enough to replace it so she could finish it on her Kindle.

A fun, unique fantasy. I think the comps to Cornelia Funke are pretty accurate.

I have been waiting so long for this book and I was worried that it would turn out to be disappointing, or not live up to my expectations. I devoured it and it surpassed my expectations not so much because of the plot but because of the writing and the main character. I can't wait for the sequel.

I've read The Reader twice now and I'm even more enthusiastic about the 2nd book than I was upon reading this the first time. Traci Cher needs to get writing! Her fans are waiting...

4.5 Stars for this brilliantly written debut from Chee. The story is intricately woven together with a cast of interesting characters. It is a book about a book, yes, but so much more. "But books are curious objects. They have the power to trap, transport, and even transform you if you are lucky. But in the end, books—even magic ones—are only objects pieced together from paper and glue and thread. That was the fundamental truth the readers forgot. How vulnerable the book really was. To fire. To the damp. To the passage of time. And to theft." Sefia has been on the run with her Aunt Non since the death of her father. She has no idea who she is running from but knows what they want. They want the strange rectangular object her parents had hidden away. This object is a book. Nin is kidnapped one day and Sefia must find her. The only clue

appears to be the symbol on the book. Sefia teaches herself to read the book through her golden magic. On her adventures to find Nin, she rescues a boy. The boy was kidnapped by Serakeen, who has been kidnapping boys and fighting them against each other. Sefia and the boy vow to stick together to find Nin and to take down whoever is behind all of this. The book is full of magic, library apprentices, assassins, pirates and adventure. It was very unique and interesting. It was full of beautiful quotes about books and stories. I can't wait to see where Chee takes the story from here.

Oh, this book. What an amazing gift it must be to have the ability to create a story this riveting, this compelling, and magical and real! Already, it's painfully obvious how difficult and awfully long the wait for its sequel shall be. Nevertheless, I feel so fortunate to have found this book. I was under its spell immediately. I may remain there for quite some time yet. Such vivid places, such familiar, recognizable characters. And all of it woven with the utmost care and perfection around a hauntingly beautiful plot, made all the more gorgeous for any of us who look upon books as most do upon breathing. A recipe unlike any, as Chee managed to gift us with fresh ideas despite using plot devices any reader of fantasy would recognize: the quest, deception, a child that is so much more than meets the eye, a journey over different lands, searching for people and answers. However, the author succeeded in making all of this new again. So captivating. So strikingly beautiful. If I could award it extra stars, I'd do so in an instant. Get it. Read it. Enjoy this most rare love affair between yourself, and words on a page that become so much more than the mere sum of their parts.

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