



Illusionarium

By Heather Dixon



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What if the world holds more dangers—and more wonders—than we have ever known? And what if there is more than one world? From Heather Dixon, author of the acclaimed *Entwined*, comes a brilliantly conceived adventure that sweeps us from the inner workings of our souls to the far reaches of our imaginations.

Jonathan is perfectly ordinary. But then—as every good adventure begins—the king swoops into port, and Jonathan and his father are enlisted to find the cure to a deadly plague. Jonathan discovers that he's a prodigy at working with a new chemical called fantillium, which creates shared hallucinations—or illusions. And just like that, Jonathan is knocked off his path. Through richly developed parallel worlds, vivid action, a healthy dose of humor, and gorgeous writing, Heather Dixon spins a story that calls to mind *The Night Circus* and Pixar movies, but is wholly its own.

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Illusionarium By Heather Dixon Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Jonathan is a teenager apprenticed to his father, whose life is turned upside down when the King docks his airship at their port in Fata Morgana and insists that they work with the famed scientist Lady Florel to find the cure to a deadly new illness. The mysterious sickness, which kills women exactly six days after contraction, has attacked the Queen and threatens to spread through their whole civilization. A new drug, "fantillium," which allows certain individuals to create group hallucinations, may hold the key to their survival—or it could be Jonathan's ultimate downfall. As he uses his ability to create illusions to try to find the cure, Jonathan also finds a way to enter alternate realities and discovers that Lady Florel is not who she claims to be. Forced to fight in an Illusionarium battle (reminiscent of "The Hunger Games"), the protagonist makes unlikely allies and ultimately comes out victorious. This steampunk fantasy set in a futuristic London features so many fantasy elements, plot twists, and dramatic crescendos that it is easy to lose the thread of the story. Still, the lovable characters and the story's originality will appeal to some readers. **VERDICT** Recommended as an additional purchase for places looking to expand their steampunk offerings.—Sunnie Lovelace, Wallingford Public Library, CT

Review

"Steampunk fantasy set in a futuristic London features . . . fantasy elements, plot twists, and dramatic crescendos . . . The lovable characters and the story's originality will appeal." (School Library Journal)

Praise for *Entwined*: "Full of mystery, lush settings, and fully orbbed characters, Dixon's debut is both suspenseful and rewarding." (Booklist (**starred review**))

"Dixon balances the suspense with generous helpings of humor and sparkling dialogue...[A] charming, romantic story, told with a light touch." (Kirkus Reviews)

"This steampunk adventure catapults across two fascinating, dangerous worlds with mild horror, some humor, and suspense. . . .Jonathan's first-person narration is compelling, candidly relating triumphs and missteps alike." (The Horn Book)

"The snappy dialogue, intriguing cast, and well-developed worlds make Dixon's sophomore effort a lush and original story." (Booklist)

"Dixon casts Jonathan not as a pinup daredevil but as an ordinary, decent person who does some extraordinary things along the way. Her steampunk world is vibrantly imagined, and the page-turning quality of Jonathan's wry narration will have readers fully invested in his story." (Publishers Weekly (**starred review**))

From the Back Cover

Far, far north, in the cold aerial city of Fata Morgana, apprentice scientist Jonathan is preparing to leave for university.

He doesn't know about fantillium, the newly discovered chemical that allows people to share hallucinations—sometimes wondrous ones, sometimes appalling.

He doesn't know he holds the rare skill to control the hallucinations—to become an illusionist.

He doesn't know that fantillium can also open gateways to parallel worlds. Or that he will soon begin an epic journey, crossing cities and worlds, to save his family, his friends, and his very reality.

He doesn't know any of that . . . yet.

And when he does, will his compass continue to point true north? Or will it break apart?

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jose Longoria:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a e-book your ability to survive boost then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a new book, we give you this Illusionarium book as beginning and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

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Jeffrey Gorski:

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Kimberly Wheatley:

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