



2018

# Traveler

Loretta Farnsworth

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## Book Review

### Traveler

#### Author

L. E. DeLano

#### Illustrator

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#### Reviewer

Loretta Farnsworth

#### Rating

Excellent

#### Level

Young Adult

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#### Pages

324

#### Year

2017

#### Publisher

Swoon Reads

#### ISBN

9781250100405

Jessa loves to write, and she pulls her inspiration from her dreams and imagination. Or so she thinks. When one of her characters, Finn, suddenly appears in front of her, Jessa learns that she is a Traveler who can enter alternate realities and inhabit various versions of herself. Unfortunately, many of the other versions of Jessa are being killed off, and Finn is determined to protect this Jessa. Guided by their Dreamers—supernatural beings that instruct interdimensional travel and assign missions to improve the various realities—Jessa and Finn try to track down the murderer. Jessa falls in love with Finn, much to the dismay of her non-Traveler friend Ben. When the attacker kidnaps Finn and threatens Jessa’s family, Ben accompanies Jessa on the rescue mission. The attacker is revealed and goes on the run, but Finn perishes. Jessa’s Dreamer attempts to comfort her by reminding her that there are other realities with Finn, but Jessa insists that each alternate “self” has a unique and real identity that should not be so easily dismissed.

The story and settings feel unique and fresh. This book has many light-hearted, romantic scenes mixed with some more thought-provoking moments. Jessa encounters different versions of her family members and struggles to come to terms with close-to-home realities, such as her brother without autism and her parents happily married instead of divorced. She also grows frustrated under the instruction of her Dreamer, finding that some of her missions go against her conscience. Her desire to protect her family and friends is deep, and throughout the story, she develops a firm belief in her own and others’ unique identities, regardless of the reality she is in. The author does a good job capturing the chaotic emotions experienced by many teens, from friendship and romance to family relationships. There are some sexual implications that may not be appropriate for younger readers, and there are some realities Jessa faces that are rather dark, including one in which humans hunt each other for food. However, positive themes of identity and conviction in the face of conflict prevail throughout the story.

\*Contains mild language, mild sexual content, and mild violence