



Gateway

Christina Garner

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Everybody has their demons... Ember's want her dead.

Ember has always known she doesn't belong in this world, but when she takes matters into her own hands, she winds up in a mental institution.

There she draws the attention of Taren, a mysterious boy with a dangerous secret.

When demons attack and they are forced to flee together, Ember learns her secret might be the deadliest of all.

With a gateway to hell about to open in Los Angeles, Ember must choose--will she save the world... or end it?

Gateway Details

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Author : Christina Garner

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From Reader Review Gateway for online ebook

Melissa says

Don't be discouraged with the uninspiring cover of this one. It's one of those novels where there's a troubled teen who meets cute & mysterious boy with abilities, but goes a notch higher with well-founded premise in its storyline. The first few chapters were ordinary, but then took a sharp turn to mystery lane when otherworldly creatures show up. I was also happily sated with all the revelations and backstories that was put into the story. What drives Ember and the motivation of the other characters are not feeble at all. Internal dialogue is just enough to know Ember better without breeding boredom. The story, with all the things going on in it, is a short one, but it feels all the more contracted because of the fast pacing and building thrills. However, Ember's plight is far from over. There are after all 9 gateways, and she's just getting started.

Man and daemon lived in harmony for centuries, with the daemons being entirely different then from humans' concept of them now. These daemons are responsible for the leaps of progress seen in the societies of Atlantis, ancient Mayans, etc. When daemons begin to intermarry with mankind producing hybrid offsprings, a group of daemons opposed and caused a rift that resulted in war, threatening the extinction of both races. The daemons who sided with humans devised a plan to confine the hostile daemons in a separate yet identical reality. In a systematic attack by joined forces of daemons and their hybrid offsprings across the world, the enemy are banished successfully. What's left behind after the war are 9 gateways spread across the continents where the battle was fought heaviest. These gateways became access points to the alternate dimension of the enemy daemon's dark prison. The remaining offsprings are trained as gate Keepers by the Institute, a school " created to continue guarding the Gateways and protect mankind from being overrun by the demon hordes", if and when they manage to escape.

From this solid concept and fluent writing, the story builds around the main character Ember, who hears voices in her head, attempts suicide, and ends up in a nuthouse. She is "discovered" by Taren who works for the Institution. He searches for cases just like Ember--humans who bear the Mark and are linked with the Gateways. These mental inmates are susceptible to hearing the malicious whispers of the demons from the otherworld and drive them to madness, unless someone from the Institute helps them. The problem is, Ember is not born with any of the mark representing the 9 gates. Hers is a tattoo of the symbols of the 9 gates put together in it's entirety. Answers are waiting for her in the Institution, but she gets more than explanations. The school unwittingly takes her closer to her heritage and her destiny-- as a pawn in the destruction of the Gateway.

Nic says

Favourite Quote: *"I felt changed, soiled by the brutality of all I'd witnessed. Something had finally replaced teenage girls on my list of most heinous, and I didn't even know what to call it."*

Gateway is good. Really good. I enjoyed everything about this novel - the strong writing, the believable

characters, the captivating plot and the subtle but sweet romance.

Garner has written an impressive debut. Her writing is quick and engaging and the plot has quite a few surprising twists. Like I completely didn't see that coming twists and I mean none of them. And that is a hard thing to find these days. I really got caught up in this enthralling and convincing world and finished it within 24 hours.

Gateway is not all paranormal. At the start of the book Ember wakes up in a hospital after an attempted suicide. So it does deal with some serious issues briefly adding some more emotional depth to the story but it isn't a depressing read. It is still more of action-packed, mysterious type of story.

The characters are well rounded and well written. Ember, the main character, struggles with being different. She has a genuine narrative making it easy to relate and connect with her. While Taren is an intriguing character. He is the type of guy that is the first one there if anybody needs anything. Just a great guy.

There is a touch of romance between Ember and Taren. They have plenty of tension that builds up nicely as the story goes. It definitely has you eagerly reading to see if these two will act on their attraction.

Overall, Gateway is an exceptional dark and appealing paranormal novel. I can't wait to read more of this world.

Persnickety says

Not a Kindle Unlimited series.

The first two books are Kindle Unlimited, then the last book is pay to read at \$6.99?!?!?! I absolutely hate it when authors do this. Christina Garner has been added to my personal banned authors list.

Okay. I forgot to check when I picked up the first book. But if I hadn't found the trilogy after it had been completed and had read the first two books to find the third book at the higher end digital pricing, I REALLY would have been more than annoyed. Talk about dissing your readers ! Just be honest and split the pricing over all the books.

Joey Woolfardis says

I really have tried my best to like YA. But when they continually to be suppressed by twee clichés it hurts. The protagonist obviously needs an unusual name. The romantic interest obviously need stunning eyes and a mysterious air about him. The teenage characters obviously need to be unhinged and some kind of outcast. The writing doesn't need to be good. Just give it a pretty cover and they will buy it. The day I find a good YA book will be a good day, indeed.

S.L. Saboviec says

Note: I received a free copy of *Gateway* in exchange for an honest review.

I liked *Gateway*, but it lacked something. Although it's full-length novel, it seemed short, as if the plot was too small. I enjoyed the world-building, and I really liked Ember, but I wished for more from this first installment in the Gateway Trilogy.

I'm particular about Young Adult books, as I've mentioned before. I decided to read this one because I liked the premise--demons and chaos. What's not to love? There's plenty of that in the book, although I wished for more revelation of the world behind the world. I'm guessing more will be uncovered as the series progresses.

One of the things I loved about the book was the main character, Ember. I'm particularly picky when it comes to my YA protagonists. I've never been one for teenaged drama, even when I was a teenager, so now that I'm adult, I'm fully out of that phase. (Pregnancy hormones notwithstanding--we'll just not go there, since my condition is temporary.) But Ember never comes across as angsty or whiny. She's always forging onward, looking to the next crisis, and generally being a badass. Even cynical old me found the romance interesting, with little to no time spent mooning over the color of Taren's eyes or where the relationship was going. A+ on the character development.

I've pondered what it is about the plot that makes me feel like it wasn't enough, but I can't put my finger on one thing exactly. The ending seemed satisfying, although some of the prose got a little purple and over-dramatic for my taste. It just feels like there's not enough development of the middle. Ember gets swept away into a new world after she's committed to a mental institution, and then BAM! Time to fight the boss at the end.

If you like urban fantasy young adult books, you'll enjoy this. The characters are interesting, and the world seems fully fleshed out. Hopefully more will be revealed in later books, and Ember continues to be a rock-steady teen protagonist.

Also posted on my blog, [Magic & Mayhem Book Reviews](#).

Amy_Read to My Heart's Content says

Full Review at www.readtomyhearts.blogspot.com

I found this book on Pixel of Ink's young edition free from Amazon. I wasn't expecting much but I was definitely surprised when this exceeded all of expectations.

As usual, ya'll know how I am, I want to talk about the cover. I guess I am a visual kind of person because a great cover can make or break a book for me. Sometimes.

This cover looks like it was drawn with a charcoal pencil by someone doing a silhouette of our main protagonist, Ember. The girl in the cover looks withdrawn and lonely, but more importantly, hopeless. I think this is one of those covers that shows us more of the book in the simplicity of it all.

Okay, I am done raving about the cover.

The story is pretty darn amazing too! Don't get me wrong it is a dark story that starts out with Ember swallowing a bunch of pills hoping to just go to sleep but instead waking up in a hospital psych ward. But she is so far from being your typical depressed teenager. Ember is much stronger than she looks or gives herself credit for.

At first when I was reading it, I thought this story was going to be about Ember facing her inner demons in a more metaphorical sense but Garner really throws in the action and fantasy almost like it feels like you are there with Ember experiencing the terrifying creatures that come to visit.

Garner writes an engaging character in Ember who grows as she realizes who and what she really is. I would have to add Ember to a list of female characters that I find pretty incredible!

There is a love interest in this story but it doesn't overtake the plot at all. In fact, it ties into it more than anything like it was predestined more to me. But that is just my opinion.

Taren is a pretty cool guy but he seems to be more cliché with the whole gorgeous tortured soul type that is typical in the YA novels.

Kat is a refreshing character in this story as well. At first I thought she was going to be the snobby girl that only thinks of herself and resents the main character but she wasn't at all. Yes she is gorgeous but didn't take away from the story. In fact she creates more diversity that could help this series become even greater.

I was completely enthralled in this story that I had a very hard time putting it down. It does have similarities to *The Mortal Instruments* but not annoyingly so. I also couldn't help thinking of Sam from *Supernatural* a little too.

I really fell in love with this story and I can't wait till I get my hands on the other two books in the series! Had to give it five hearts!

Abbie says

Actual rating - 2.25

Gateway started out okay, but i quickly lost interest.

Ember was an alright character, but i didn't love her. The other characters were the same.

The first few chapters were okay, but it lost me after that. Their was a few info dumps, and all the talk about gatekeepers and demons bored me.

Overall, Not a very enjoyable read for me.

Sarah says

(Downloaded for free from Amazon.co.uk)

This book started out alright, but I lost interest.

Ember was an okay character but I didn't love her, I was a little surprised at the way she reacted to things at times, I think I would have assumed that I was crazy, but she wasn't too bad.

The storyline in this just lost me at around the 27% mark. Things just seemed too far-fetched, I didn't believe

what was happening, and ultimately I found I didn't care either. I also found it weird that the lead female was called 'Ember', and the lead male was a pyromaniac.

Overall I just didn't enjoy this, and was glad when it was over.

4.5 out of 10.

Sarah Gonzalez says

Gateway by Christina Garner was, in one word, fantastic. Garner is an incredibly captivating writer. In this debut and series opener she entices her readers with an exciting and original storyline.

Although I found it difficult to connect to Ember, I still thought she was an incredible character. For starters, I thought her narration to be extremely entertaining. She is constantly supplying witty comments and remarks that keep the reader amused with the story. She is also a complex and well-rounded character. Ember deals with a lot of emotional baggage and her problems aren't only surface deep. I personally didn't connect with her – I never really went through a depressed stage, I still was engaged with her. You don't always have to relate to a character to find them intriguing and likable.

The storyline of Gateway is utterly intoxicating. Honestly, this book has one of the best openings that I have read in a long time. And believe me; the rest of the story is just as good. I was completely hooked from the first page and did not want to put the story down until I read the last word. Garner presents a wonderful, intoxicating and original story that is full of action, excitement and great characters. I am not going to outline the plot for you guys, because like I said it is full of twists-and-turns. I don't want to spoil anything, because half the fun of the book is being taken by surprise. Just trust me when I say, you will love it.

I will say that the book closes with a doozy of a plot-twist ending. As I was reading, I hated where Garner was taking the ending. Honestly, I was about ready to stop reading it. Then, all of the sudden she threw a curve ball right at me. After the dust settled, I was happy again and back to loving the book. Blast Christina Garner, she's such a tricky writer. She seems to enjoy giving me heart attacks.

For those romantics out there, we have the relationship between Ember and the ever-charming Taren. Taren is the type of guy who is easy to fall for – he's sweet, caring and protective. He always tries to take care of everyone else and genuinely seems to care for Ember. But what I really enjoyed about their relationship is that it didn't develop at warp speed. They take their time in developing, realizing and acting on their feelings. There is no "insta-love" mix to be found here.

In short, I loved, loved, loved, Gateway. It kept me up all night, it kept me guessing throughout and stayed on my mind afterward. And that my friends, is pretty much my definition of a great book. If you haven't read this one yet, I really recommend that you check it out. Now I'm just holding out for book two.

Steve says

This is a well-written young adult novel. It does not disappoint, but it contains nothing to distinguish itself from similar novels.

Annika says

Wow. So not only did this book catch my attention because of the blurb, but the first chapter seriously made me want to read more.

The story starts off with Ember's mysterious suicide attempt. That somehow got me really hooked for a few reasons:

-I love the name Ember, and usually any book with the name Ember as the main character is always good.

Except for this one book I read:

Do not ever read that book. Trust me, it sucks.

-When the main character is somewhat disturbed, goth, emo, or just a plain loner with absolutely no friends, I find it all the more intriguing.

Moving on: Ember ends up in this institute type of place for all the cray-crays out there. She makes a few friends. One of them just so happens to be the mysterious boy with hazel eyes. A.K.A. Taren. He was just yum!

So, during the whole time I'm reading this book, I'm just anticipating the moment Ember and Taren will kiss. My anticipation soon turns to silent begging because it took a hell of a lot of time for them to finally kiss! But, when they did, it made me all gooey inside. *I loved it.*

The whole book was really good. Then we got to all the complicated parts. Such as this mysterious Gateway that was the like the entrance to this realm but with demons on the other side and whatnot.

And Ember is somehow very special because she has this *muy importante* connection with the Gateway.

Then a whole bunch of stuff happens- including the kissing scenes :D - and I got 100 percent lost during the action and the ending.

So there was lots of confusion on me behalf when it came to the ending. I think I sort of understood it after re-reading it and whatnot, but whatever.

Back to the point: I think the best thing about this book was the romance. Call me a sucker for romance ('cause I am) but this romance was just really good. And Taren was definitely a knight in shining armor. A dark, mysterious knight that totally made me all giddy. ;)

Do I recommend this book? Sure. Why not? I liked it.

Who would I recommend this book to? Is it not obvious? I'd recommend it to all the people out there who are obsessed with paranormal romance. Except, this is a YA paranormal romance...so yeah. But it offers something new and not overused storylines.

My overall rating? 3 stars. I didn't love it, but I didn't hate it. I just liked it.

Kel (Faerie-bookworm) says

Sorry, I don't like to support authors that use their fans to get money for lawsuits.

Yasmin says

Never boring!

This book is all action! Never got boring! If you love the supernatural, this book is for you! I really enjoyed it!

Damian Southam says

In a bold and much debated sensitive topic, Gateway opens tactfully with the recollections of Ember, as she's brought back from her peaceful experience of knocking on death's door. Thus her earliest recollections following her attempt against her own life, jump from the decor of the hospital emergency room to that of her shared room in the psych ward. If nothing else, the cliched setup of the walls and absent decorations would've given it away. Her peaceful descent on the wrong end, or right, depending on your perspective, of a whole bunch of mixed prescription medications will now be carried as yet another burden and stigma of her teenage life. For the most part there'll be a whole bunch of peoplescreaming, 'how could she do this to me'. She knows forewell what will now be said about her, in hushed and hidden conversation, behind closed doors and for the bold, to her face. Not that any of the agents of authority would agree, but Ember knew what she wanted and was in complete control and certainty when she did it, and was not about to throw into the mix, words such as accidental. The only place where things went wrong was in her failure to succeed.

Ember, in attempting to take her own life, had finally positioned herself in a locale where others with similar problems existed. Despite the miasma of so-called experts surrounding her in the mental institution she now finds herself a resident of, her greatest allies and peers suffering with similar problems would be found in the institution's clientele. That others with vastly different reasons were present was no surprise, but the truths she would find among her peers would open her mind to a different world than that with which she struggled most. The voice of guidance in Ember's head and the drawings of a strange design that she'd been seeing in the past year, have greater meaning than she could've ever known had she not been admitted to where she was now. A strange boy and younger girl would prove to be the things which rattled her reality the most. That the boy's eyes seemed to pierce and see through her soul would prove to be only the tip of the iceberg that rock her world. The voice and the drawings, including the small replica Ember'd had tattooed on her hairline, were immensely important in a struggle almost no one knew of.

Ember will quite quickly learn to question everything that has come to pass or has not yet come to be. Growing up with a mother with mental illness has taught her to recognise signs others wouldn't notice and to keep her own secrets and musings a closely guarded secret. But this new knowledge that Earth isn't the only realm where life exists and that what popular culture knows as demons, and the belief that they come from hell, is simply humanity's way of rationalising what it doesn't understand, is in many ways harder to grasp than the notion of her own possible insanity. The voice Ember began hearing in her mind has guided her and revealed only truths since she began to test whether it would lead her astray. Now that the world has been revealed in all its gory detail, Ember struggles with the dilemma that the voice which lead her to those who

would offer protection, are the same confidants would have her not trust the voice. Instincts developed since it's inception into her mind are now called into question.

Many millennia ago the world of Earth was inhabited by humans and daemons, living peacefully in coexistence. Over time, some from each species intermingled and there were those that went so far as to fall in love, producing offspring hybrids. Like in many races there are those that are traditionalists and saw these matings as blasphemous. As with the nephilim of our own mythology, the history of Gateway subsequently saw events leading to war. Over the span of three days in constant conflict, the two sides took such heavy collateral damage that both species looked to become on the verge of extinction. That is, until eventually the daemon and human coalition were successfully able to evict their opposing forces into an alternate dimension created to replicate that of Earth. Never intended as a punishment, the realm was rich in life and mirrored exactly that of the Earth they had known. Once completed nine gateways came into existence to seal away those expelled, who would become known as demons.

At such time Keepers began being born, humans with birthmarks that reflected one of nine separate pieces of the whole image that depicted the sign of the gateways. As the demons and daemons both had the advanced mind capabilities of telekinesis and telepathy, the demons attacked in force the remaining daemons from the other side of the gateways. As such, the daemons slowly fell into extinction and the keepers began to establish safe zones where they were free from the telepathic attacks that would lead them into insanity if not held in check as they grew up. Separate institutions began teaching and providing safe harbour, so that those born with marks could successfully grow into their roles and prevent the demons from returning to Earth. Whilst not a prophetic knowledge it was hypothesised by some that among the keepers there might one day be those born bearing the complete mark of the gateways, and that they would be the first evolutionary step back toward the advanced race that were once the daemons.

Both moving and captivating, Gateway offers a new spin on the realms of demons and humankind. In some ways a reflection of how urban fantasy has portrayed the relationship between humans and angels. The use of mental illness as a precursor to identifying those who would be keepers is surprisingly intrinsic. Even for a lay person its obvious that for people with culturally defined illnesses of the mind, that those same people clearly see a different world. Ember is a complex and powerful leading character, with enormous potential to now come into her own. That her hardships have been a run of trials deemed necessary by fate to prepare her for her future destiny, is not an uncommon thread in real peoples lives.

What begins as an (somewhat) expose quite succinctly becomes a powerful urban fantasy with much action, intrigue and drama. Earlier elements of the story, whether intended or otherwise, gives the feel of possibility instead of straight out fantasy. Better still its a story still winding up and gathering further momentum, to take it forward into the remaining books. There's also the added bonus of highlighting in small pieces where further novellas and a prequel could most definitely find their way into the trilogy, outside of the traditional three books usually seen in trilogies. I can already picture a book zero-point-five looking at Taren's parent's experiences, and perhaps even a one-point-five and two-point-five that deal with Taren and Kat's points of view respectively. I certainly have no hesitation in ticking off the fifth star and writing the review herein.

Tera Comer says

I enjoyed the world building for this story and liked the fact that the heroine has issues that most feel need to be swept under the rug but she is able to work through it. I received a free copy of this book and volunteered to review it.

