



# Illusionarium

By Heather Dixon

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## Illusionarium By Heather Dixon

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:**

#### **Roger Ruelas:**

Here thing why this kind of Illusionarium are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all studying a book is good however it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as delicious as food or not. Illusionarium giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no guide that similar with Illusionarium. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in park, café, or even in your means home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of Illusionarium in e-book can be your alternate.

#### **Jeffrey Gorski:**

Illusionarium can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into joy arrangement in writing Illusionarium however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can drawn you into completely new stage of crucial pondering.

#### **Keesha Marks:**

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#### **Doris Avey:**

As a student exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library in order to make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's internal or real their

passion. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring and can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this age, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Illusionarium can make you experience more interested to read.

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