



Daughter of Xanadu

Dori Jones Yang

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Daughter of Xanadu

Dori Jones Yang

Daughter of Xanadu Dori Jones Yang

Athletic and strong willed, Princess Emmajin's determined to do what no woman has done before: become a warrior in the army of her grandfather, the Great Khan Khubilai. In the Mongol world the only way to achieve respect is to show bravery and win glory on the battlefield. The last thing she wants is the distraction of the foreigner Marco Polo, who challenges her beliefs in the gardens of Xanadu. Marco has no skills in the "manly arts" of the Mongols: horse racing, archery, and wrestling. Still, he charms the Khan with his wit and story-telling. Emmajin sees a different Marco as they travel across 13th-century China, hunting 'dragons' and fighting elephant-back warriors. Now she faces a different battle as she struggles with her attraction towards Marco and her incredible goal of winning fame as a soldier.

Daughter of Xanadu Details

Date : Published January 11th 2011 by Delacorte Books for Young Readers (first published December 22nd 2010)

ISBN : 9780385739238

Author : Dori Jones Yang

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Adventure, Fiction, Romance, Fantasy, Cultural, China

 [Download Daughter of Xanadu ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Daughter of Xanadu ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Daughter of Xanadu Dori Jones Yang

From Reader Review Daughter of Xanadu for online ebook

Tamora Pierce says

I admit, I blurbed this, because I think it's a darn good book. The female hero is a Mongol princess who yearns to be a warrior in the Khan's army. She is strong in character and weapons, but the men scorn her because of her sex. She is given a chance, but she is assigned a truly unpleasant duty: she must be a companion to the strange-looking foreigner from the west and learn all of his secrets for the Khan. What she learns from this Marco Polo will change the way she looks at herself and at the world, as will her first experience of war. It's a powerful look at war, at prejudice against women and foreigners, at the conflict between religions and ways of life, and at one girl's willingness to change and keep changing.

Teril says

Do you remember Mulan? Well here is someone with a new twist, it is Emmajin the granddaughter of Khubilai Khan.

Yeah.

We open up to beautifully written story that transfers you to the vast empire of Khubilai Khan. War is always happening, but it is a more peaceful time, a changing time. The vast conquests are still expanding, but so is the idea of bettering the people.

Emmajin is a strong, athletic warrior of a girl who does not want the court life, but longs to be a soldier in the Khan's army. She practices with her prince half brothers and gains the attention of the Khan with her efforts. Now Emmajin is on a secret and special mission that will take her to dragons and to war. What comes after is where the pivotal part of the tale hits.

The writing in this novel was so artistically done. I felt as if I could touch the grass in the vast open plains. See the marble palace, and fall in the heat of battle. There was not too much detail to as take away from the characters, but more than enough to becomes transfixed into this era of history. I loved the historical clarity and the references in time. I loved the mild romance and the thoughts the characters unveiled to us. Each section of the book held great depth and I was very pleased with this read. I recommend it whole heartedly to others and say to them: grab a cup of something warm, a chair and a blanket because you will not want to leave this one. It is a total finish with love, for me especially.

Also on a note, the cover was beautiful.

Tara Chevestt says

This is a pretty good read. It's a fictional tale about a romance in the Mongol Empire between the young Marco Polo and a granddaughter of the Great Khan Khubilai. Marco Polo is visiting Khan's Empire in hopes of winning the Emperor's favor and returning home and wonderful loot to trade. Emmajin is a princess who wants to serve in the army and experience battle. The Great Khan gives her an assignment: Get close to Marco Polo and find out as much about his home country, Italy, as she can. The Khan hopes to invade Christendom one day.

Very rich in history and full of interesting facts. Good story, but the ending didn't fit.

For full review, please click the link: <http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2010/...>

Victoria says

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

Daughter of Xanadu is my first book that I read of Dori Jones Yang and right now, I can say it won't be my last. *Daughter of Xanadu* engrosses many imaginative, fantasy readers with its powerful storytelling, a rich setting completed with vivid images, dashing adventures, and great, complex characters. *Daughter of Xanadu* is basically a retelling of *Mulan*, but creates a distinctive way of its own.

It's written to tell a story that occurs around in the 13th century about a normal female princess (Emmajin) who aspires to be a female warrior in the army of her grandfather, the Great Khan Khubilai and explains the story of how she becomes the female warrior. What Emmajin didn't anticipate was falling in love with a foreigner, Marco Polo, but alas, fate brings them together. Conversation, time, and understanding play a chance in an unlikely friendship which transforms into something beautiful and sweet. Marco Polo's whose character is the exact opposite of her whom special talent revolves around his charm of storytelling. Although he has a gift for stories, he's not specialized in the "manly" arts like our female heroine is. As time passes, Emmajin sees a different, but beautiful side to the foreigner. Together, both of them traveled across lands and encounter fierce dragons and brave conquests.

First of all, I must start off with this review about the writing and the setting. The writing of Dori Jones Yang might seem average and simplistic to some, but personally, to me I think the writing was beautiful and helps capture the words, vivid images, and emotions just from a paragraph. As for the setting, it helped me picture the scenes and as well as the characters. The pretty writing and vigorous writing was very well done.

Like this peaceful setting right here....

Emmajin is one of my favorite characters of *Daughter of Xanadu* mainly because she's strong-willed and so well-rounded that I find it very easy to relate to her. Her fierce determination/strengths can help achieve anything whether it's the impossible. Dori Jones Yang creates such a realistic portrayal of a kick-ass heroine so alive and vivid on paper. It's astonishing, to be honest. I find Emmajin very relatable to read. There are many mistakes she makes, but she learns from it which helps her become stronger and risen to incredible heights. A horrible encounter (view spoiler) which was deeply powerful and absolutely touching changed our female heroine for the better. This experience alters her character and results in her making a very difficult choice that will change her life. That special moment was deeply moving and Dori Jones Yang successfully handled the emotions and character development very well.

The romance between Emmajin and Marco Polo first started out as an unexpected encounter that grows gradually and slowly into a beautiful, surprising friendship that I grow to fond of. Their moments and times together always have a way of bringing a pleasant smile to my face. Their playful and cute banter strengthens their relationship with each other and is one of my favorite moments and joys of *Daughter of Xanadu*.

Overall, *Daughter of Xanadu* is an intriguing story mainly written to tell about the culture of the Mongols, a everlasting relationship, a woman's valor in being a fierce warrior of her grandfather's army, and the powerful emotions it has in store for many readers. I got only 2 words for you. Read it. You will be surprised by *Daughter of Xanadu*. (Just like I was!)

Recommended for: Fans of fantasy and adventure or those who want to read a creative twist on the

retelling of *Mulan*. Or those who want to read something short and sweet on a rainy-day. That--I will recommend.

Greatly anticipating for the sequel.

Steph Su says

If you've never read anything about the Mongolian empire, then pick DAUGHTER OF XANADU up. Writing in a style easily accessible to modern readers, Dori Jones Yang tells the surprisingly deep story of a girl caught between warring desires, who learns that dreams may change and that things are hardly ever what they seem.

Emmajin undergoes an incredible journey of self-growth, from a girl with a single-minded determination to be a soldier to a young woman with far more complicated feelings and desires. To tell the story of Emmajin's self-discovery, Dori Jones Yang gives us a world full of marvelously fascinating details, first among the artificial glamour of court life, and then among the gruesome reality of mortality on the battlefield. This transition of her soldier aspirations from dream to reality truly affects Emmajin in ways that we who live many centuries after her time can still empathize with. I was in tears for the last few chapters of the book, so wrapped up in Emmajin's development I was.

DAUGHTER OF XANADU is a great book if you're looking for a story featuring a strong female character set in a fascinating "other world." Expand the range of POC books you read with this one, and be swept away.

The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says

Sigh

Once more an unnecessary "romance" ruined a great adventure story with an amazing heroine. Is there some unwritten rule in publishlandia that demands damn near EVERY book written for girls/young women MUST have a romance, even when it makes no sense for it to be there? They certainly don't do that to books geared toward boys. Yes, I'm calling out sexist fail here.

I'm actually rating this 3.5 stars for not being the typical Eurocentric historical YA. It's always great to see more diversity in YA. Also for the awesome, non-whitewashed cover (unlike the cover of *Eona: The Last Dragoneye* which so pissed me off that I purchased the UK version of the book since it actually featured the Asian heroine). Ohm and even though I had no need of a romance, at least it was an interracial one (which softened the disappointment).

The Mongol Empire has always fascinated me, so being immersed in its mores was wonderful. I've seen yurts, but can't imagine what fermented mare's milk would taste like. I envisioned the thundering of hooves across grassy plains and the sound of hundreds of arrows being fired. When it came to narrative, this novel succeeds hugely. The opulence and splendor of Kublai Khan's palace felt like I was there. Granted, the young girl who wanted to be a warrior rather than a pampered princess or housewife isn't new, but I really loved Emmajin. I loved her determination to be more than what her gender dictated. She was great when learning the skills to be a warrior. Unfortunately the very traits I admired went sideways with the whole

falling in love with a young famous Venetian adventurer and trader named Marco Polo which just wrecked the book for me. Once more, that whiff of testosterone and a kick-ass heroine lost her moxie. Suddenly the things she once fought for had to be weighed by feelings for the boy. Suddenly his tales about his life in the West, especially in his home of Venice, are enough to change her feelings about what it means to be a part of one of the greatest (and most feared) empires in the world. I could accept such a change had she come to that conclusion after experiencing the ugliness of war, or even speaking with her father, a prince and a Buddhist monk. It came from at first being 'disconcerted' by the foreigner (Polo), enough to forget the hours of training Emmajin went through in shooting arrows on horseback to realizing her dream to become a soldier only to risk it because of her developing feelings for him.

Facepalm.

Ag says

?????, ?????, ????????? ????? ??? ?????? ??? ??????. ????? ??????. ??????? ?? ??? ????? ??????? ?????? ???, ??? ? ????????? ??????.

Sarah says

Ah, it was okay. Emmajin began to grow on me as the book went along, and I thought her ambition was portrayed very well. The author also portrayed the questioning of her values and the subsequent reconciliation nicely. The details of Mongolian culture and just feeling the sheer amount of research that must have gone into the writing of this book--boy, am I hesitating giving this just three stars!

The thing is I wasn't convinced/swept away by the romantic subplot of the novel. I thought Marco Polo was a fine character--sort of preferred him to the protagonist, in fact--and I didn't like how she abused him for not being manly enough, didn't apologize outright for her behaviour, and still expected him to love her. The worst part is Marco Polo supposedly does love her throughout her ill treatment of him, and there weren't any major tiffies between the two of them (and there was certainly reason enough).

Look, I liked how female desire was a large part of this book--it's awesome, and I haven't read it in YA for a long time. But what I didn't like was how one minute, Emmajin would make Marco feel guilty for being such a nancy boy (god forbid he use his brains instead of his muscles, I mean, what kind of man is that?), and then the next minute, she'd be planning their future together. You'd think culture clash would produce more of a conflict--she does think he's barbaric in the beginning--but it feels like any misgivings she had toward him just dissolved without him actually being informed of it. I mean, what gives? The girl's not treating you right! You'd think such an articulate young man like Marco Polo would have confronted her about it, but no. It came to a point when I'd just start groaning whenever I knew some more romantic development was about to take place because I just wanted the two of them to come to their senses and I knew it wasn't going to happen.

It's sad because I really did want to love this book. It's a mix of everything I've been looking for: Asian historical a strong female protagonist, a lot of butt kicking, some nicely written (and warranted) angst, and a dash of romance. If you don't care too much for romance, then I wouldn't be able to recommend this book for you. But if you're willing to read a book about a strong female protagonist and don't mind having to sift through her problematic romantic encounters, then you're more than welcome to try this out.

Sab H. (YA Bliss) says

This is kind of embarrassing to say but I decided I would because many of you might have the same perception.

I flatter myself saying I love historical Fiction, I mean, I even made a challenge just to force myself to read more of it. So, duh. I can even tell you which ones are my favorite historical periods. Uh-huh. Yeah.

Truth is, I totally avoided some periods. I looked at this title, saw the cover, and flinched because I know next to nothing about the Mongol Empire and I had never read about it. It didn't even sound appealing to me, at all. To some I might be ignorant and stupid here, to those of you: you are wise. Now problem is, and this might sound cliched--because it is-- that you cant say you don't like something unless you try it. Boy, what a huge lesson. In my mid-twenties, you'd think I would've learned it by now. Nope.

BUT. I got it for review. Ah, well. What the heck. Start reading. Wait. I cant stop reading. This stuff is awesome! Oh, Marco Polo! [insert swoon] [insert sigh] you are hot, hot, HOT. I WANT TO FREAKING TIME TRAVEL NOW. I want to go back live in that time! I want to read more, know more.

It's High Fantasy that... really happened. Who knew?

Lesson learned.

Daughter of Xanadu was enchanting and brilliant. I now have a vivid image of the Mongol Empire and find myself curious and in awe of what the world was like then. Dori Jones Yang brilliantly brings ancient past to life with this charming tale about embracing our differences and seeking peace. As gripping and thrilling as any epic fantasy story, Daughter of Xanadu gives teens the chance to learn history in the most entertaining way possible.

I absolutely LOVED this story! The Characters were incredibly well done, the plot was an absolute page-turner and the cover was fitting and GREEN! (Sorry, I have a green obsession!) But seriously--warriors, dragons, yummy boy, fierce heroine, royalty, heart-pumping romance, battles with elephants... What else can I ask for? This is my first historical MUST READ of 2011.

Littlebearries says

I have to say, perhaps somewhat shamedly, that before this book I gave very little thought to the Mongolian empire in the times of the Great Khan Khubilai (Kublai Khan).

Beyond seeing them as the frightening, cruel people on Disney's Mulan... I really had very little to go on. My education was sorely lacking, having never discussed them in school, other than the passing comments that Kublai Khan was a powerful leader.

This book not only piqued my interest in Mongolian history, but it also, very skillfully, presented a culture who did, in fact, have some frightening war tactics... from the point of view of someone who saw those tactics as honorable and courageous... to the point where you too, as the reader, could understand that viewpoint and how one could be raised to see certain actions in such a glorious light.

This was the case of the main character, Emmajin Beki (or, Princess Emmajin), granddaughter of the Great Khan Khubilai. She wished to be a warrior and reveled in the stories told around the fire of great military wins for her people.

Then everything is thrown into new, confusing light with the arrival of a young Latin, Marco Polo. He looks on Mongolian practices at war as distasteful for the most part, and Emmajin is suddenly confronted with having to look at the military conquests of her people in a different light.

This book was fantastic. Emmajin was a wonderful, strong female character, worthy of any young girl's admiration. She dealt with the issues of obedience, love, loss, adventure, questioning her own beliefs and standing up for what she believed in, with grace and tact.

Not only that, but it provided historical terms and descriptions of traditions, buildings, outfits and other aspects of daily Mongolian life from the 1200s that I had never heard of before.

This story was both entertaining and informational, something that would keep teen readers deeply interested while introducing them to a world that, perhaps like myself, they never knew.

joy *the clean-reader extraordinaire* says

3.5 stars

LIKES: the vivid, fabulously original mongol-empire setting. this is fantastically foreign for me, and for most YA readers. the outsider's view of marco polo's travels. the detail and obvious depth of research situates this story firmly in time and place. the cross-cultural interaction was impressively realistic. you could feel the distance between one reality and the other.

BEEFS: this book needs more polish somehow. i kept feeling the lack of something, but not being a writer myself, i can't put my finger on exactly what. AND **spoiler ahead** the "happy" ending was SO forced and unrealistic. i wish the author had had the courage to let the story end naturally. argh.

pg 13 for battle sequences

i got to read this book through a Good Golly Miss Holly ARC tour. cool, huh?

Jessi says

This novel stands apart from most others in the young adult genre. It carries an intellectual weight and a sense of timelessness that is a product both of refined, fluid prose and expert treatment of historical subjects. Yang has managed showcase Mongolian culture in as authentic a way as a modern-day author can while doing justice to themes that any teen today can relate to.

Princess Emmajin's voice stands out as unique and as representative of the Mongolian ideal of valuing glory on the battlefield. However, even in doing so she is highly relevant to the modern woman because to obtain her goals, she must go against everything is "proper" for a Mongolian woman. She navigates the waters of her first love with grace and maturity, all the time weighing her own feelings and desires against her responsibility to her society.

One thing I loved about this book is that the central focus was Emmajin's journey and development as a character. Although romance is an important and driving facet of the story, it is not the only thing we see. It's interesting to see how the ideas Marco brings from the West bring about changes in her mind and heart.

Lydia Presley says

Did you see Disney's Mulan? Did you like it? If you answered "yes" to both of those questions then you need to make sure to read this book when it's released early next year.

This story of a Mongolian princess, Emmajin Beki, is a story that proves that love triangles do not need to exist in YA level books for them to be full of romance, adventure and feature a strong, willful female as the hero. Does that mean there isn't romance? No - there's a little but it's where it belongs, adding beautiful color to the background of this story instead of elbowing its way to the forefront and demanding all of the attention.

Emmajin has always wanted to be a soldier and, as the granddaughter of the Great Khan Khubilai, she can expect nothing of the sort. What can she expect? Marriage to one of those soldiers - someone high ranking and to spend a lifetime in the shadows, living the quiet life of a woman in a time where women were ignored and put aside while battles waged on around them.

However, Emmajin has a different plan for her life. This is a story of Emmajin's bravery, her struggle to prove herself, her sorrow as she learns the consequences for her actions and her message of hope and ultimate peace. It's filled with historical information about the time period, beautiful descriptions of the places and a glimpse of the man, Marco Polo - someone that, up until this point, I'd only been familiar with as a game.

I'll be looking for more by this author - I loved the way she wrote, I loved Emmajin's voice and the story had me flipping pages with excitement, anxious to learn more of the story.

Yin Chien ?? says

I don't know much about Mongolian history, but it's true that I don't have a liking for the Mongols after watching movies and reading storybooks depicting their barbaric acts. But now I realize it's just the way a story is portrayed that influences the reader's mind, thanks to Daughter of Xanadu. When a same story is told in two different perspectives, we will have different perceptions and feelings after reading them.

In this book, our heroine, the 16-year-old granddaughter of Kubilai Khan - Princess Emmajin has no intention of getting married and become a good wife. She sole ambition is to get enlisted in the army and fight for the Khan to gain fame and glory in order to make herself comparable to men. She wants to help contributing a part in helping the Great Khan conquer the whole world. But as she eventually befriends a Latin merchant named Marco Polo whom she is initially assigned to spy on, she learns about the countries which is far off the borders of the Mongolian empire. Marco's words about the bad effects of wars start to prick her consciousness, and she thinks about the possibility of attaining peace through an alternative solution. As time passes, Emmajin and Marco begins to develop special feelings for each other.

While being historically accurate and highly entertaining, Daughter of Xanadu is also a thought-provoking novel. It questions the act of waging a war simply because of one man's aspiration to be the supreme world ruler. You will not fail to discover the brutalities and grittiness of war, which is portrayed vividly in this novel during the Battle of Vochan. However, I must say that I really admire Marco's wit in introducing a special tactic that proved to work against the Burmese King's troops. I love the part where Emmajin, Suren and Marco helped in capturing live dragons (crocodiles) to be taken back to Khanbalik.

In the front pages of the book, you will find a map of the Mongol Empire under Kubilai Khan from 1275 - 1276, with translations of ancient names of places to today's standard names. Also, there is a page on Emmajin's family tree. The author really deserves compliments for her meticulous research on the Mongolian lifestyle and culture. She describes the scenery of the wide stretches of land in Mongolia skillfully using beautiful words which makes me feel as if I were in that place. Included in the back is a glossary of some of the Mongolian and Latin terms which is used by the characters in the novel.

Dori Jones Yang has created word images so vivid that it is almost like watching a movie. She takes you on a brilliant Odyssey through the often-discussed-but-seldom-written-about Mongolian history through the eyes of the courageous royal princess herself. I heartily recommend this book to everyone, especially those who has a keen interest in the history of China and Mongolia or the founding of the Yuan Dynasty.

Read more on <http://the-bookaholics.blogspot.com>
