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# Stravaganza: City Of Ships



## Synopsis

In the Talian town of Classe, magic and piracy come to life. Isabel, a younger twin by a matter of minutes, is transported there by her talisman-a pouch of silver mosaic tiles. Once she stragavates to Classe, she meets Flavia, a successful female merchant whose son is an outcast and a pirate. Isabel discovers that Classe is under threat of attack, but what can she do to save the city?

## Book Information

Series: Stravaganza

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Fantasy

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Living in the shadow of her twin brother, Isabel begins to visit Talia, an alternate-reality, sixteenth-century Italy. Now a stravagante, one of several secret time travelers at her London school, she grows in self-confidence and independence. Still, she wonders how to save her Talian city as enemies approach from sea and land. Each novel in the beautifully conceived Stravaganza series increases the complex network of characters, places, connections, and intrigues. Although the continuing stories of characters from the previous books sometimes slow the momentum building in Isabel's tale, they also increase the richness of this compelling fantasy world. Grades 6-10. --Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Mary Hoffman is an acclaimed children's author and critic. She is the author of the internationally

bestselling picture book *Amazing Grace*. Her *Stravaganza* sequence for Bloomsbury has its own fan forum and the latest, *Stravaganza - City of Secrets*, was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal. The *Falconer's Knot* was shortlisted for the Guardian Fiction Award. She has three grown-up children and lives with her husband in West Oxfordshire.

Mary Hoffman never disappoints! Great story, great characters, and a great ending! She brings back plots and characters from previous books without making the story repetitive or boring. HIGHLY recommended.

amazing story! I love the series and was delighted to see that it had been continued! I can only hope that the author continues the series. It is an amazing blend of the modern world and Italy of the Renaissance.

You need to read the entire series(6 books). Once I started I just couldn't put it down. I am a middle school librarian and have recommended it to all my students, but also to adults as well who just enjoy reading.

I was anxious to get this book as I had read the first 4 in the series. I hoped it would be in great condition as I was donating it to the High School library...AFTER I read it! It was delivered in a timely manner and in great condition! Thanks

Love this whole series! Started reading them and just couldn't stop. Wish this series would never end, I need more *Stravaganza*.

One of my favorite series. Keeps you intrigued the whole time. Great characters and great plot. Hope you enjoy it.

Glad to work with the seller, even though it takes a very long time for stuff to ship from the UK. :)

Isabel always feels like the runner up when it comes to her and her brother. She's not as smart, athletic, or popular as him. When she falls asleep with mosaic tiles she found in an Italian style bag at school and suddenly wakes up in Classe, a Talian town, all that changes. Classe is in danger of being attacked and it seems Isabel is the only one who can save them. You know those books that

stay with you, even when you've closed them for the night? 'City of Ships' by Mary Hoffman is a perfect example of a book that does just that. 'City of Ships' is written drastically different from the other books in the Stravaganza series. With the number of London based Stravaganti growing, the story is based as equally in Talia as it is the real world. This change, while startling at first, made for an interesting look at the current Stravaganti in London. I couldn't imagine having the power to go from Talia each night and not have it effect regular, daily life. It was nice to see the relationships between those who have traveled to Talia and how those travelers related to those who haven't traveled to Talia. And, I have to say, I always get a kick out of when the old Stravaganti figure out who the 'current' one is (in this case Isabel), leaving the 'current' Stravaganti to figure out why they're so interesting all of a sudden. It still makes me smile. And that little bit of romance between Isabel and another Stravaganti? Loved it. Isabel wasn't annoying. Quite the opposite, I liked her perspective. She could have come off as whiny, as characters usually do when jealous of a sibling, but she doesn't. She has quite a grown up air to herself, actually. As always, the characters in Talia are fantastic. Flavia and her son, the rogue pirate Andrea, were engaging characters. I almost suspected some sort of romantic storyline between Isabel and Andrea, but we'll see what happens with that in future books. (Though I doubt anything will now!) I found the story to be a little less focused on Isabel's 'issue at hand', in this case her feeling second fiddle to her twin brother, but still enjoyed the storyline for this fifth installment of the Stravaganza series. The role her brother did end up playing in the story was unexpected and very different from something typically found in this series. I did find some odd loose ends in this novel. I'd like to see what comes of Flavia's son and Isabel's pirate friend Andrea. And also, the biggest question on my mind after finishing: what did Luciano's mother want to tell her son? It's probably nothing big or surprising, but I want to know! Seriously, I'm waiting for the day when the Mulholland's travel to Talia to see him, to perhaps see a wedding or at least meet Arianna. I really enjoyed 'City of Ships'. I loved the friendships, the hints of romance, and Talia in general. This series as a whole is one of those that everyone should read. So, if you haven't picked up this series yet, check it out!!!

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