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"I imagined that my Prince Charming was just beyond my little door, that he really could come and kiss me awake and we could have a whole year more together. There was a click, click, grrr of gears, and I knew the flash freezing would start in mere moments, and then my life would be nothing but a puff of white steam leaking through the cracks of my morgue door.

And I thought: At least I'll sleep. I will forget, for three hundred and one years, everything else.

And then I thought: That will be nice.

And then whoosh! The flash freeze filled the tiny chamber. I was in ice."—from Chapter One

Across the Universe

By Beth Revis

Seventeen-year-old Amy joins her parents as cryogenically frozen cargo aboard the spaceship *Godspeed* and expects to awaken on a new planet, Centauri-Earth, three hundred years in the future. But her frozen slumber comes to an end fifty years too soon when the power to her cryo chamber is cut, and she is thrust into the world of a spaceship that lives by its own rules.

Amy quickly realizes that her awakening was no technological malfunction—someone tried to kill her. And if she doesn't discover the murderer's identity, her parents could be next. Although Amy knows she will be older than them when they're eventually unfrozen, she loves them—and she won't let them die.

Amy must unlock *Godspeed's* secrets before the killer strikes again. Her red hair and pale skin distinguish her from the dark-haired, olive-complexioned ship inhabitants, and there's nowhere to hide among people who fear difference and change. But of the few thousand people on the ship—all of which are on her list of murder suspects—there's only one who truly matters: Elder, *Godspeed's* future leader and the love she never expected to find.

Beth Revis lives in rural North Carolina with her husband and dog, and believes space is nowhere near the final frontier. She is a former high school English teacher with a soft spot for *Firefly* and *Doctor Who*. *Across the Universe* is her first novel.

January 11, 2011 Hardcover \$17.99 416 Pages ISBN 1-595-14397-1 YA Science Fiction

"Cunningly executed thriller...a compulsively readable crowd-pleaser."—*Booklist*

"A believable romance and a series of tantalizing mysteries that will hold readers' attention."—*Publishers Weekly*

About Beth Revis



Beth Revis was born and raised in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in North Carolina. Despite being a complete over-achiever and teacher's pet in high school, she often wrote short stories instead of taking notes during classes. This habit persisted into college, except the stories became novels.

Beth tried *really* hard to like boring books by dead white European men while in college, but she kept drifting over to the YA aisles in the bookstore. (While she does like Shakespeare, she insists it's only because of all the dirty jokes.) Beth's favorite author of all time is C.S. Lewis, ever since reading *The Chronicles of Narnia* under the stairs of her local library in elementary school all the way to writing her master's thesis on *Till We Have Faces*. She enjoys books that are strange in some way—either they explore new worlds, discover new magics, or delve into different lives of interesting people. She also holds a special place in her heart for *Firefly* and *Doctor Who*.

After graduating from NC State University with a BA in English Education, a minor in history, and a MA in English Literature with a concentration in fantasy literature (she is a complete over-achiever, remember?), Beth became a teacher herself. She filled her classes with Greek gods, samurai, and ancient monsters, but continued writing between grading essays and making lesson plans.

Although Beth had originally begun teaching thinking it would be a nice way to pay the bills before she got a book deal, she discovered that, much to her surprise, she didn't just like teaching, she loved it. This made it much harder for her to quit when she decided to focus more time on her writing.

Beyond writing, Beth loves to travel. She and her mother are in a race to visit the most states (Beth is currently at 41, her mother has 47). Beth does have her mother beat on most foreign countries visited: Beth has ten, her mother has nine. Beth's favorite foreign city is London—she did her study abroad at the University of London—but Malta will always hold a special place in her heart as it was the first foreign nation she visited. Before she dies, Beth wants to see Jerusalem, the Great Wall of China, and the Pyramids of Giza.

Beth currently lives in rural North Carolina with her husband and her dog, one of which is her best friend, and the other is her second-best friend. She spends too much time reading and writing, and nowhere near enough time cleaning the house.

Advance Praise for *Across the Universe*



“Wherever the series goes from here, this opener leaves an indelible imprint.”
—Starred review in *Kirkus Reviews*

“Cunningly executed thriller...a compulsively readable crowd-pleaser.”
—*Booklist*

“...a believable romance and a series of tantalizing mysteries that will hold readers’ attention.”
—*Publishers Weekly*

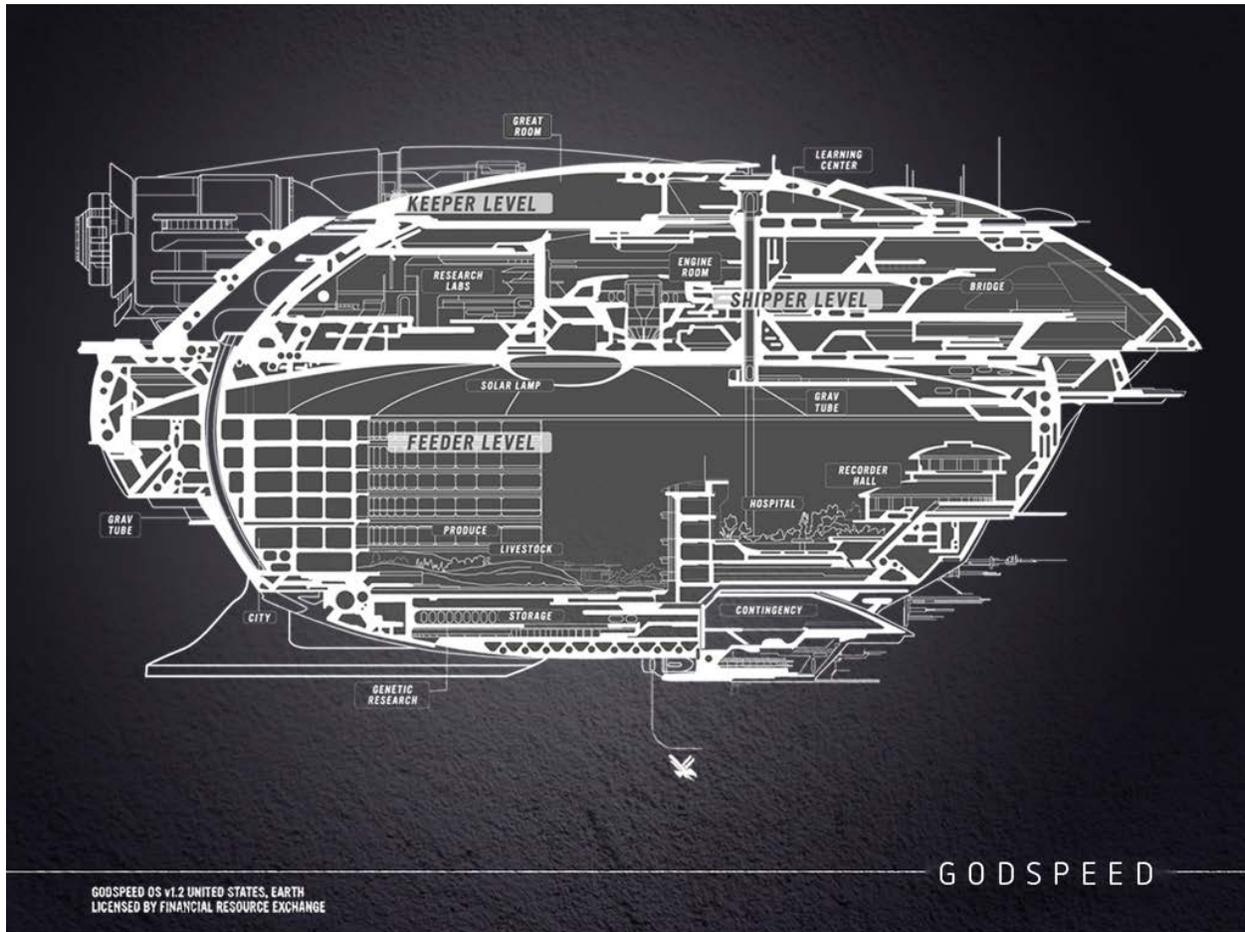
“A horrifying and deliciously claustrophobic masterpiece that’s part sci-fi, part dystopian, and entirely brilliant.”
—Kiersten White, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Paranormalcy*

“A stunning debut. Beth Revis explores what a society isolated deep in space is willing to sacrifice in order to survive, and the result is both thought-provoking and chilling. Entirely original, deeply compelling, and totally unputdownable—I’ve found a new favorite!”
—Carrie Ryan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*

“An astounding ride! Beth Revis erases genre boundaries with a murder mystery, a budding romance, and a dystopian world gracefully integrated into a sci-fi novel that blows away all expectations.”
—Melissa Marr, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wicked Lovely*

From <http://www.bethrevis.com/books/>

Visual Talking Points: The Spaceship *Godspeed*



Godspeed is home to 2,312 people in search of a new home on Centauri-Earth. The spaceship has three levels:

The **Keeper** level is home to Eldest, the ship's leader, and Elder, his successor. No one else on the ship has access to this level.

The **Shipper** level houses the ship's bridge, learning center, engine room, and research labs. Shippers—that is, medical personnel and scientists—have access to this level and the Feeder level.

The **Feeder** level is 6,400 acres in size. It is home to the majority of *Godspeed's* citizens, called Feeders, and has everything most of them will ever need: produce, livestock, farms, the hospital, and the Recorder Hall. Feeders live in the City and warm themselves in the light of the sun-like Solar Lamp. Feeders do not have access to the Shipper or Keeper levels.

Image courtesy of <http://acrosstheuniversebook.com/#!/downloads>

A Conversation with Beth Revis, author of *Across the Universe*

Where did you get the idea behind *Across the Universe*?

The premise for the novel came from reading a lot of other books in my genre. I read Jeanne du Prau's *The City of Ember*, and it really reminded me a lot of what I loved about Agatha Christie's *Mousetrap*: a contained mystery, where all the suspects and all the victims are trapped together. I wanted to do something similar with a new setting. My original idea was a cruise ship, but that wasn't weird enough for me. I read Mary Pearson's *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* and realized that science fiction can be done without much science—which perfectly appealed to me. So my setting became a space ship. But I still lacked a real plot. I had an idea for a murder mystery, but felt like it lacked oomph. Then I read *The Thief* by Megan Whalen Turner—I won't ruin the plot, but the way she developed the twist through an unreliable narrator was cool, and sparked the idea for my own twist.

It all came from that twist at the end. I wrote the entire book, came up with the setting and characters—just to write the end scene. I didn't know the whole story, but I did know the final important thing that Elder tells Amy. From that, I was able to build the whole story to lead up to that end.

What made you decide to write YA? What do you find inherently satisfying about writing for the under-18 crowd?

I write YA because it's not boring. Seriously. It has more exciting plots and more interesting characters. I love fantasy and sci-fi, but adult fantasy and sci-fi is waaaaay too long and boring. Do I really need fifty pages of description? No! Blow something up!

That said, I will probably write some YA fantasy in the future.

YA science fiction has become a lot more popular recently—do you think that it will continue to grow? What do you think makes science fiction interesting to today's YA readers?

I do think sci-fi will continue to grow. The great thing about YA readers is that they care more about the story than anything else. In YA, the thing that separates the subgenres is the setting. My story would be fantasy if it took place in a mythic world with magic, or contemporary if I'd followed Agatha Christie's lead and set it in a snow-bound inn. I think more and more YA writers will explore the new settings of sci-fi in the future...or at least, I hope so!

Science fiction in general is starting to regain some traction in pop culture. Do you have any favorite movies or TV shows?

My absolutely top number one recommendation of all time is Joss Whedon's TV series *Firefly* and the accompanying movie, *Serenity*. It is so. Brilliant.

I've also just started watching *Battlestar Galactica* in part because I was impressed with seeing the women actors at NY ComicCon. One thing that really stuck out to me was that they said the writers

of the show never prescribed a gender to a character—they found the right actor, despite the gender.

When you were growing up, were you ever really into *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*—something that influenced you to write about space travel?

I was SUCH a *Star Wars* fan! First, I had a brother named Luke. Second, I had super-long hair that I could actually make into the Princess Leia buns. So yeah...definitely a *Star Wars* fan.

What are some of your favorite characters (from anything)?

- Aerin from Robin McKinley's *The Hero and the Crown* for being so beautiful and kick-butt.
- Cimorene from Patricia Wrede's *Enchanted Forest Chronicles* for being so hilarious and smart.
- Captain Mal from *Firefly* for having a cute butt.

What was your favorite part of writing *Across the Universe*? Least favorite?

My favorite part was getting to the end—I had it plotted out for so long, and it was just brilliant getting to it. My least favorite? Honestly...I loved it all. I don't *enjoy* revising and editing, but I love the way it makes everything better. It's like, I don't enjoy cleaning the house, but I love having a clean house.

Can you tell us two random things about the main characters, Amy and Elder?

Amy's original name was Amaryllis, named after the flower, but that was way too clunky, so I shortened it to Amy. To research Elder, I often asked my husband what a guy, in a certain situation, would think or do. For example, when Elder first sees Amy (frozen, but also naked in her box), I had written three pages of description. I asked my husband what a boy would think if he was in that situation. "Is she naked?" my husband asked. I answered, *yes*. "Then I'd just think about her boobs." So...Elder thinks about Amy's boobs.

What is one thing you hope your readers will take away from *Across the Universe*?

The truth is always important, even if it's hard.

If you were a fruit, what would you be?

Star-fruit! It's tasty, and shaped like a star!

Questions and answers adapted from:

Novel Thoughts: Interview with Beth Revis (<http://www.novelfthoughtsblog.com/2011/01/interview-with-beth-revis.html>)

Shut Up! I'm Reading: Interview with Beth Revis, author of *Across the Universe* (<http://shutupimreading.blogspot.com/2011/04/interview-beth-revis-author-of-across.html>)

Miss Snark's First Victim: Author Interview: Beth Revis (<http://misssnarksfirstvictim.blogspot.com/2010/04/author-interview-beth-revis.html>)

Tea Mouse Book Reviews: Beth Revis—Interview (<https://teamouse.wordpress.com/2011/03/24/interview-beth-revis/>)

Beth Revis' "Across the Country" Book Tour January 2011

Forest City, North Carolina

Launch Party at Fireside Books and Gifts
Tuesday, January 11, 5:00-7:00 PM

Lawndale, North Carolina

Book Signing Party at Burns High School
Wednesday, January 12, 1:30-4:30 PM

Boston, Massachusetts*

The Children's Book Shop/Brookline Public Library
Thursday, January 13, 6:00 PM

New York, New York

Books of Wonder
Sunday, January 16, 3:00 PM

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Hennepin County Library
Monday, January 17, 7:00 PM

Denver, Colorado

Tattered Cover Bookstore
Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 PM

Salt Lake City, Utah

King's English Bookshop/Salt Lake City Public Library
Thursday, January 20, 5:30 PM

Los Angeles, California*

Children's Book World
Saturday, January 22, 2:00 PM

Raleigh, North Carolina

Quail Ridge Books and Music
Monday, January 24, 7:00 PM

Tour locations, except those marked (*), borrowed from <http://www.bethrevis.com/news/>
Marked locations were added by me.