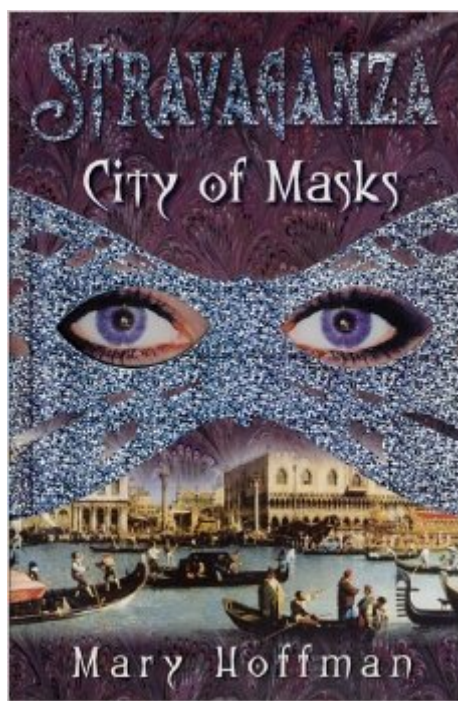


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# Stravaganza City Of Masks



## Synopsis

During the day, Lucien battles cancer in his modern, normal life. But at night, he becomes a Stravagante, a time-traveler of sorts who finds himself in Belleza, a city parallel to old Venice. Befriended by a local girl and protected by an older Stravagante, Lucien uncovers a plot to murder the city's beloved ruler, the Duchessa. But to save the Duchessa and the city Lucien risks losing his only chance to return home to his family and his real life. The well-paced, thick-with-plot story will hook the reader immediately and not let go until the superb, unexpected end. City of Masks is the first in a three-book arc from the gifted Mary Hoffman.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920L (What's this?)

Series: Stravaganza

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; First U.S. ed edition (September 21, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582347913

ISBN-13: 978-1582347912

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 1.3 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (72 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #659,042 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Renaissance](#) #48 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Renaissance](#) #9460 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

STRAVAGANZA: CITY OF MASKS, by Mary Hoffman, is a the first book in a brand new fantasy series which has all the signs of someday being a favorite. Through Hoffman's writing the characters and setting come wonderfully to life, and the result is a story that readers will want to revisit many times over, simply to drink in the magic. The story is spun around the character of Lucien Mulholland, a boy living in modern-day London of our world, where he is bedridden from being treated for brain cancer. When the chemotherapy makes his throat so sore that he cannot speak properly, Lucien's father brings him home a blank book with a beautifully marbled cover so

that Lucien can write whatever he needs to say. However, when Lucien falls asleep with the book in the pocket of his pajamas, he wakes up to find himself in another world entirely. What's more, in this world it is as though he has never had cancer in his life. In Bellezza, a Venice-like city state in the country of Talia, Lucien finds himself swept up in the political undercurrent of the city, who's people and mysterious Duchessa are working with all their might to keep free from the clutches of the Chimici family. Lucien is taken in by the "scientist" Rodolfo, who explains that the book was a talisman made to help people like Lucien travel, or "stravagate" between the two worlds. Lucien's companion and guide in Bellezza is the beautiful 15-year-old girl named Arianna, who will wind up playing a bigger role in the city's fate than one would imagine. I myself had never even heard of this book up until my attention was caught by its flashy cover as it sat on one of the shelves at the local bookstore.

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