

# Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - General Fiction

## Everything I Thought I Knew

Shannon Takaoka

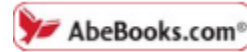


Oct. 2020. 320p. Candlewick, \$17.99 ([9781536207767](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9781536207767)). Grades 9-12.

[REVIEW](#). First published October 23, 2020 (Booklist Online).

During fall track training, senior Chloe passes out and wakes to a diagnosis that indicates she needs a new heart. Following her transplant, Chloe feels unable to connect to her previous life, and she is plagued by blood-soaked

nightmares and fragmented memories of unfamiliar people and places. While finishing classes in summer school, Chloe researches posttransplant experiences, discovering the possibility of cellular memory. She fuses this with her interest in multiverses and wonders if this could be the key to her posttransplant self. Meanwhile, she's uncharacteristically drawn to taking surfing lessons with a Japanese American guy named Kai, on whom she develops a deep crush. The concurrent covert hunt for her unnamed donor takes her all over the Bay Area, spawning myriad emotions in the young woman. The novel's light foray into sci-fi might not appeal to some readers, but it shouldn't scare them away. With shades of the film *Return to Me*, the book asks thought-provoking questions about the fragility of life, our place in the universe, and the possibilities of multiverses and cellular memory. — *Jeanne Fredriksen*



## Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to  
*Everything I Thought I  
Knew*

- *Alive*
- *Pieces of Me*
- *Some of the Parts*
- *The Way Back to You*