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The Book Of Wonders



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Synopsis

Sorcerers, Cyclops, Djinnis . . . Magic.Thirteen-year-old Zardi loves to hear stories about fantastical beings long banned from the kingdom of Arribitha. But anyone who is caught whispering of their powers will feel the rage of the sultanÃ¢â ¬â •a terrifying tyrant who, even with his eyes closed, can see all.When her own beloved sister is captured by the evil ruler, Zardi knows that she must risk everything to rescue her. Along with Rhidan, who is her best friend, and an unlikely crew of sailors led by the infamous Captain Sinbad, Zardi ventures forth into strange and wondrous territory with a seemingly impossible mission: to bring magic back to Arribitha and defeat the sultan once and for all.

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Customer Reviews

Kid loved it. Seems like there could be a series out of this.

The book will give you a story that won't allow you to sleep! I stayed up till 5 am reading it.

This beautifully written tale will have readers rapidly turning pages and begging for more. Magic, mystery, and friendship. It’s an exceptional start to what I’m sure will be an outstanding series. Young readers will adore the adventure. Older readers will appreciate the ingenious ties to Scheherazade and ONE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS.

Fantastic book! Particularly good for reading at bedtime. The girls were riveted!

This book was a real page turner which was great as my child wanted to do extra reading. The reader was transported to this other world full of magic and beauty which you could picture with ease and without needing to get caught too long on description. You could imaging this book making a great film.The book also had fantastic characters. It is refreshing to have characters who are exciting and are full of the best human traits. However, the characters also make mistakes and do feel difficult emotions such as jealous. This makes them accessible to the readers and in an addition from teaching them right and wrong, also teaches them about dealing with difficult emotions and repairing relationships. This is all done subtely and without interrupting the world.I can’t wait for the sequal!

While clearly aimed at a younger audience this book is the type that would have crossover appeal for those who do not normally read YA/Childrens books.You will find names you know in this one (Aladdin and Sinbad) but the story really belongs to Zardi and Rhidan, a young girl and her best friend who set out on an adventure to figure out how to save Zardi’s sister and father from the evil sultan and find out who Rhidan is (he was abandoned as a baby, taken in by Zardi’s family).Nice pace? Yup! Magic, bad guys, snakes, mechanical creatures, giant birds, pirates, dijinni, diamonds -- well you get the picture, there really is a little bit of everything. Still it’s very age appropriate, I cannot think of anything that make me feel the need to warn parents about this one.While obvious that it will be continued, it does feel like you’ve just read one complete adventure (this is a big bonus in my eyes given how many series lately don’t seem to complete anything in one book).I’ll be back for the next one.

Zardi, short for Scheherazade, loves hearing stories about the times when magic was plentiful and abundant in the land of Arribitha. But those times are gone, ever since the evil sultan, Shahryar, came to power and forbade anyone from even talking about magic. When her sister, Zubeyda, is

taken to be the sultan’s next praisemaker - a job that always results in the girl’s death - and her father is imprisoned, Zardi and her friend Rhidan must seek out Sinbad, and hope that the sailor’s tales of lands faraway are true. Together they’re all thrust into an adventure that none of them saw coming.This was a really fun book that used the tales of One Thousand and One Nights in a very interesting way. Zardi was a downright fantastic female lead: she’s tough, stubborn, and unwilling to give up. Her friendship with Rhidan is first rate, too, and I liked the way they complemented each other. While I’m familiar in passing with the story of Sinbad, this was an interesting look at his character, and definitely tarnishes the legend just a bit. Zardi is unrelenting in her search to save Zubeyda, and is willing to face danger after danger in order to ensure her sister’s life. While the adventures were fun (and dangerous!), it was her spirit that really made me love this book. She was just a really perfect narrator.I will say that this book took me far longer to read than it should have, because I stopped midway through to read a whole bunch of other things instead. This is not a knock on the book - I was thoroughly enjoying it - but it does suffer a bit from what I call the "non-stop action" affliction. Zardi and the others certainly have to go through a lot.Also, a word of caution, this is very clearly the start of a new series, which doesn’t become apparent until almost the very end. While one story line is wrapped up, there are tons of other things that have yet to be figured out. The book doesn’t really end on a cliffhanger, though, so much as it’s very open-ended. I look forward to seeing what Zardi and Rhidan get up to next.

I received this as apart of the Once Upon a Twilight ARC Book Tours.Zardi lives in a world with Magic, Djinn, Ogres, and Sorcerers. However, the Sultan has banned magic in the kingdom of Arribitha. Even speaking of magic, could get you arrested. Ironic.Zardi has a mysterious companion in Rhidan, who was abandoned as a baby. When given a clue about his past, by Sinbad the sailor, he is compelled to find the answers.In Arribitha the Sultan forces young girls in the position of ’praisemaker’. The young girls are held captive and eventually executed. When Zardi’s sister is captured by the evil Sultan, she knows she must go to any length to rescue her.Together, Zardi and Rhidan set off on a journey that will forever change them. Though sometimes their journey will separate them, they will battle through the trials.A great new middle grade fantasy novel. I loved the world it was set in. I only wish that there had been more revealed about Aladdin. I only hope there is more from this series to further develop that aspect. A page turner from the start, I was hooked from the beginning and think fans of this genre will surely enjoy!

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