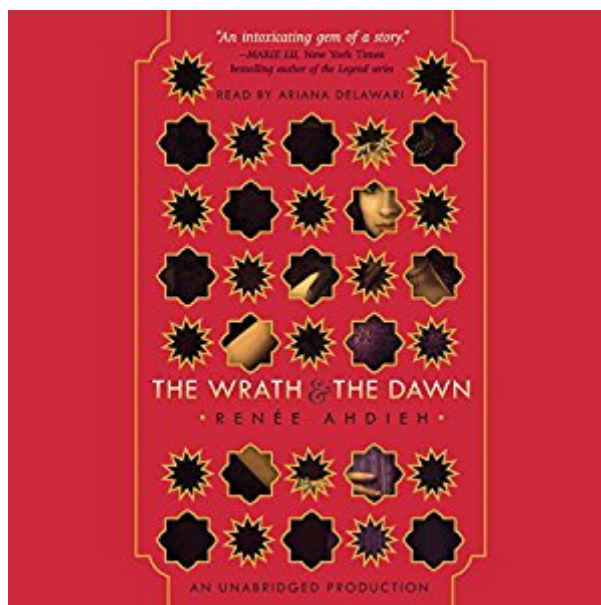


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The Wrath And The Dawn



Synopsis

A sumptuous and epically told love story inspired by *A Thousand and One Nights*. Every dawn brings horror to a different family in a land ruled by a killer. Khalid, the 18-year-old caliph of Khorasan, takes a new bride each night only to have her executed at sunrise. So it is a suspicious surprise when 16-year-old Shahrzad volunteers to marry Khalid. But she does so with a clever plan to stay alive and exact revenge on the caliph for the murder of her best friend and countless other girls. Shazi's wit and will, indeed, get her through to the dawn that no others have seen, but with a catch...she's falling in love with the very boy who killed her dearest friend. She discovers that the murderous boy-king is not all that he seems and neither are the deaths of so many girls. Shazi is determined to uncover the reason for the murders and to break the cycle once and for all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I cannot begin to tell you how angry this book made me, and I've read so many books so they just don't do that to me anymore. Yet, this one somehow did. SPOILER ALERT for those who haven't read the book. There's no doubt that Ahdieh is very, very talented. The writing is beautiful, exceptional. The author creates these wonderful scenes and imagery that makes you feel like you yourself are there by Shahrzad's side. I could taste the food, smell the marketplace, see the dazzling beauty within the palace. Every word Ahdieh writes is like a gem. She uses metaphors, allegories, and other tools of writing to show you what's going on instead of just telling you outright. The bad side of writing like this is sometimes scenes get confusing and you don't really know who's

doing what, or what's really going on, but that's all here and there. The writing, I think, is the only thing that saved this book. Ahdieh is a beautiful writer, and can weave words together in a way most writers cannot even dream of doing...though I do not think she is a splendid storyteller, and there is a huge difference between the two. Let me explain. As far as Khalid, he's on par with Christian Grey in the fact that he's supposed to be smoking hot but is about as attractive on the inside as a molding onion. For the first 3/4 of the book, his bland personality simply bored me, but by the last fourth I was screaming at him every time I turned a page. He seriously reminds me of a guy I used to know, who complained constantly about how horrible his life was and acted like he got the worst hand life dealt to anyone, just to make himself seem deep and interesting. It doesn't help that everything bad that happens in the book, the curse, all the girls dying, is still ESSENTIALLY HIS FAULT. Every single person that dies or gets hurt is a result of Khalid's selfish nature and self loathing, and he doesn't even care enough to even attempt to make himself likable in any sort of way, just goes around the palace with a woe-is-me attitude even though everyone else is suffering way more because of his actions. I don't get what the big craze is these days about "tortured, haunted" leading males in fiction who hurt women because they're "damaged." For me, it's really unattractive to see a guy waltzing around hurting people because somebody did him wrong in the past, and a woman chasing after him trying to tame the monster. Shazi's relationship with Khalid is on par with Stockholm syndrome and/or an abusive relationship. He literally almost chokes her to death, and she's still palling around with him. Shahrzad isn't much better. The most we know about her is that she can shoot a bow, she's angry all the time, and that she's trying to kill the guy who murdered her best friend, which she epically fails at for no reason because...I don't know...he's hot? I have no idea why Khalid and Shazi fell in insta-love, because I have no idea who they are as people in the first place. If you took them out of their terrible situation and put them in a normal life, they'd be complete strangers to you because there's nothing about them that makes them unique or different. For as beautiful as the descriptions are and the writing is, the characters are a blank canvas, only painted with a few strokes. There are so, SO many romantic and beautifully detailed scenes that would've stolen my breath away IF I could stop wishing the people I was reading about would just die already, and that's what really makes me upset. This book could've been a masterpiece, but the execution fell flat at the characterization. She did everything else right, but sadly, this crucial point causes the book to fail. It doesn't help that at every turn, there's a new character to memorize, and a new name to learn. For as short as this book is, there are way too many characters. I know I've made this mistake in my own writing, but I expect better from a book published by Putnam (though I really shouldn't...the Cahill Sisters Chronicles, also published by Putnam, also had an array of 20+

characters for 3 short books). It just makes me so mad things turned out this way. I was looking forward to this book for a long time, and it was such a big let down. The world, the writing, everything was so beautiful. But when you've got these distasteful, bland characters running around in this beautiful world, I really don't care to keep reading. Gonna think long and hard if I want to chance it with the sequel.

I am not at all familiar with 1001 nights, so this story was entirely fresh for me. It was a bit slow to start, but not at all uneasy to read. I loved Shazi right from the start, though Khalid took some time to grow on me. I love the banter going on between Shazi and her handmaiden Despina. I was pretty confused by the insta-love and really could not see why Shazi was falling in love with Khalid, but by the end of the story I found myself saying "aww" to myself a lot. Which I really never do. Towards the end, I found some of the most beautiful words of love I've read in a while, so much that I had to stop and write them down in my reading journal. Now that I've finished the story, I'm totally sold on this romance and am pretty upset by what seems to be about to happen! I did find the chapters focusing on magic to be kind of strange and, well, just really weird. Hopefully that will be explained a little more in book 2. Overall, it wasn't perfect but I definitely enjoyed this story. It's a keeper in my library for sure.

I couldn't put this book down! Halfway into reading it, I ordered the sequel and all the novellas! I'm glad I did too because there's a cliffhanger. I honestly don't know how Shazi and Khalid will overcome the obstacles between them. At first I wasn't sure about Khalid and I was rooting for Tariq but just like Shazi did, I fell for her and Khalid's love! Can't wait to read the next one! 5 Stars! This novel was a real page turner! It had me captured from the beginning. I was intrigued by the intro that said 100 lives for the one he took. Then I open up to Shazi who is the main character. She's is hurt, angry, and determined. Spoilers!!! She comes to the palace to kill the king (Khalid) because every bride he's had has died the next morning including her best friend Shiva. So she's technically volunteered to become his next wife not to die but to avenge her friend. She's is also the first woman to volunteer. The twist in the story is that she falls in love with Khalid and he her. But by doing this Khalid is not following the instructions of a curse that is placed on him -'d Shazi is not following her initial intentions. This causes problems with Shazi's loved ones and Khalid's kingdom! Reading this book has taken me on an amazing ride and I only wish I could re-read it for the first time again!

Ahdieh's debut novel "The Wrath and the Dawn" was as beautiful as it was enchanting. It was a refreshing young adult tale and wove its magic and romance into my heart. Every second of this book was fascinating and definitely left a lasting mark. It was a refreshing young adult tale because it took place in a region that I have never had the pleasure of reading before in YA. In addition, it contained words, cultures, characters and relationship dynamics that one doesn't normally see in YA. All in all, it felt like a breath of fresh air. Air that I willingly want to breathe more of. It was interesting to start the book with the main characters Shahrzad and Khalid already being married, giving them a depth to their relationship unlike any I have ever seen before in YA. By having them already married it allowed me to delve right into their relationship and watch it unfold right into the drama, which was brilliant on Ahdieh's part. This novel flowed beautifully and had me constantly flipping through the chapters at a non-stop speed to see where our new found and beloved characters would end up. In addition, the mystery surrounding Khalid and the deaths of his previous wives kept me on edge waiting in terror for the answer to this dreaded question. This novel's plot, characters and setting were immersive and enchanting and I highly recommend it to any and all hopeless romantics. I can't wait to get another dose of these characters, their fates and this setting in the sequel "The Rose and the Dagger".

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