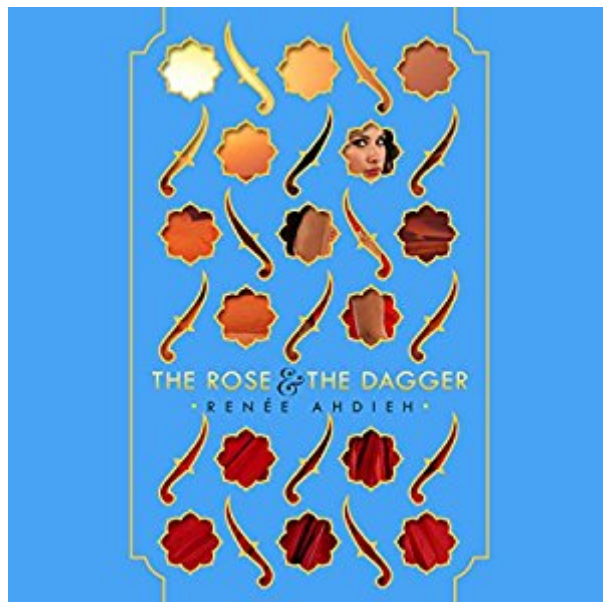


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The Rose & The Dagger



Synopsis

The much anticipated sequel to the breathtaking *The Wrath and the Dawn*, lauded by *Publishers Weekly*. I am surrounded on all sides by a desert. A guest in a prison of sand and sun. My family is here. And I do not know whom I can trust. In a land on the brink of war, Shahrzad has been torn from the love of her husband, Khalid, the caliph of Khorasan. She once believed him a monster, but his secrets revealed a man tormented by guilt and a powerful curse - one that might keep them apart forever. Reunited with her family, who have taken refuge with enemies of Khalid, and Tariq, her childhood sweetheart, she should be happy. But Tariq now commands forces set on destroying Khalid's empire. Shahrzad is almost a prisoner caught between loyalties to people she loves. But she refuses to be a pawn and devises a plan. While her father, Jahandar, continues to play with magical forces he doesn't yet understand, Shahrzad tries to uncover powers that may lie dormant within her. With the help of a tattered old carpet and a tempestuous but sage young man, Shahrzad will attempt to break the curse and reunite with her one true love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The *Rose and the Dagger* is a continuation of the *Wrath and the Dawn* a story about Khalid, a cursed man and Shahrzad, the woman who loves him. In this novel Shahrzad must find a way to break Khalid's curse, and stop an impending war in order to find her way back to her one true love. Overall this conclusion was beautifully written and satisfying. It feels different than the first installment because even though it is centered on Shahrzad and Khalid's love it dwells more on the forces trying to tear them apart. This shifts caused

the story to be more than just a romantic tale. There are many new perspectives in this installment including Irsa, Rahim, and Omar. Adding these new perspectives gives the viewer a larger scope of the world revealing what's happening in other places at the same time. It also makes certain events even more heart-breaking because we tend to dwell in the minds of characters when their emotions are heightened. This is a great sequel because it truly shows how much Khalid and Shahrzad care for each other and the world that surrounds them. I would highly recommend picking up this series. It is a romantic and easy read that will have you feeling a variety of emotions some of them conflicting. Also it offers up a new world with unique rules and characters that are flawed and beautifully constructed making them feel tangible. If you pick up this series, you won't regret it.

The Wrath & the Dawn was such a surprising treat last year. It was captivating, sexy, and unique. I've been looking forward to The Rose & the Dagger ever since. I'm happy to say it did not disappoint. The Wrath & the Dawn certainly left us hanging. The book was a whirlwind and then it was just over. I somehow managed to survive the year long wait to see what was to become of Shazi and her boy King. The Rose & the Dagger sweeps you right back into the action. It took me a little while to catch up and remember all the happenings of the first book. I have major mom brain. Once I felt settled in the world again, the book was hard to put down. Shazi is as fierce and wonderful as ever. She is such an incredibly strong character. I love that she doesn't come across as too hard. It makes it so easy to love her. Her sister also played a large role in this one. It was nice seeing her come into her own and grow. Khalid was just as swoon worthy as before, as well. There wasn't as many steamy scenes but their chemistry jumped off the page. I really had no idea how all their issues were going to get resolved but everything came together well. Action, magic, and betrayal abound in The Rose & the Dagger. I loved immersing myself in this world. The ending of Shazi and Khalid was very satisfying without being tidy at all. These two books are fantastic and I highly recommend them.

Oh it's time to review the second and unfortunately the last book of The Wrath and the Dawn duology. I loved, loved, loved this duology, I just cannot tell you how much I loved it. I loved the characters, Khalid is AH...amazing, I love him. Shahrzad is fierce and not afraid of anything and I freaking love her. The world? Every time I was reading these books I just wanted to jump right in and live there lol. All the side characters were lovely or monstrous and you just connect with everything that Renee writes. I love her writing style and her work. And let's stop right here and

jump to this review...Shazi is forced away from Khalid all because of a curse. A curse that threatens to keep both of them apart forever. Shazi is reunited with her family, who have found refuge in a desert, but she isn't so sure about this place because in this desert there is a force set to destroy Khalid and his empire and the worst is that this force is commanded by Shazi's childhood sweetheart. She finds herself trapped between those she loves and the only thing she can do is act. Shazi finds herself using the magic within her as a guide and she strikes out on her own to end both the terrible curse and the war to come. But in order to do it she must evade enemies of her own to stay alive. In this final book we get to see Shazi even more fierce and courageous than the first book, and this girl is not afraid to risk anything to save those that she loves. And she is not afraid to face those that she hates the most to save the ones that she loves the most. And I loved to see Shazi risking everything for her love for Khalid. And Khalid? He is so cute in this book, we got to see another side of him, but don't worry the crazy and courageous Khalid was there too. I loved, loved to see Shazi's sister, she was everything that I thought she was going to be and when she got to meet Khalid? Priceless... Tariq, I'm going to confess, there were times that he drove me crazy but like any sequel, by the end of the book I thought he was tolerable. :) Most of the other side characters I really enjoyed and loved, there were some new ones and old ones too and AH...you just connect with all of them and just be prepared to have your heart broken too. That's all I'm going to say. Overall, an amazing sequel and conclusion, 5 out of 5 stars for sure and these books did become some of my favorites this year!!!

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