



# The Forbidden Wish

By Jessica Khoury

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"Lush, romantic, and exquisitely written . . . a rare, glittering jewel of a novel."—**Sarah J. Maas**, author of the *New York Times* bestselling **Throne of Glass** series

"This is Aladdin like you've never imagined."—**Renée Ahdieh**, author of *The Wrath and the Dawn*

*She is the most powerful Jinni of all. He is a boy from the streets. Their love will shake the world. . . .*

When Aladdin discovers Zahra's jinni lamp, Zahra is thrust back into a world she hasn't seen in hundreds of years—a world where magic is forbidden and Zahra's very existence is illegal. She must disguise herself to stay alive, using ancient shape-shifting magic, until her new master has selected his three wishes. ??

But when the King of the Jinn offers Zahra a chance to be free of her lamp forever, she seizes the opportunity—only to discover she is falling in love with Aladdin. When saving herself means betraying him, Zahra must decide once and for all: is winning her freedom worth losing her heart?

As time unravels and her enemies close in, Zahra finds herself suspended between danger and desire in this dazzling retelling of the Aladdin story from acclaimed author Jessica Khoury.

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## The Forbidden Wish By Jessica Khoury Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—Lyrically written, this work is a twist on the familiar tale of Aladdin. Seventeen-year-old Aladdin finds the lamp in a cave, and the story is told from the point of view of the Jinni of Ambadya, a girl named Zahra. She must shift shape in order to remain discreet among the humans. Eventually she is given a deal: she is to free the jinn prince before the moon cycles. If she fails, the human race in the city will perish. If she succeeds, then she will return to Ambadya as a free jinni and no longer be a slave to the lamp. Aladdin and Zahra become allies. As she works to free herself, she falls in love with him only to find that if she is to claim her freedom, then she must betray him. Readers, knowing that she can't have it both ways, will want to know what she will do to solve her problem. Other characters involved in the story add to the drama, making it even harder for Aladdin and Zahra. Khoury's writing is evenly paced and well done, making this a good selection. VERDICT A solid choice for anyone who enjoys fairy tale retellings and light romance with magic and hope.—Karen Alexander, Lake Fenton High School, Linden, MI

Review

**\*\*A Goodreads Best Book of February\*\***

"An exciting tale of deception, forbidden love, and dangerous magic, starring a cheeky thief and powerful but vulnerable jinni. Fans of fairytale retellings set in faraway lands full of romance, daring-do and pulse-pounding action will fall for this swoon-worthy tale."

—**Booklist, STARRED REVIEW**

"Lush and magical . . . anyone who ever loved *Aladdin* or *One Thousand and One Nights* is going to be hooked."

—**Bustle**

"Gorgeous and complex, this is a wish granted to fans of fantasy, romance, or just good storytelling."

—**Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

"Lyrically written."

—**School Library Journal**

"Playful chemistry and Khoury's assured storytelling should make it easy for readers to lose themselves in this rich and complex story of allegiances and betrayal."

—**Publishers Weekly**

"Though the dynamic ending fully concludes their story, readers will likely long for more stories—say, 1,000 of them. Dripping in magic, strong women, and forbidden love."

—**Kirkus Reviews**

"Deliciously sensual yet understated . . . rich and compelling. The competing allegiances and ambivalent outcomes test Zahra's long-held assumptions about self and other, her beliefs about love and freedom. Teens will appreciate Zahra's tough choices as ones they face for themselves."

—**Voice of Youth Advocates**

"The well-loved tale of Aladdin and his magic lamp is dusted off and given a twist."

### —*School Library Connection*

"Lush, romantic, and exquisitely written—*The Forbidden Wish* is a rare, glittering jewel of a novel. I was captivated from the very first sentence and never wanted it to end! Absolutely stellar—and utterly unforgettable."

—**Sarah J. Maas**, author of the *New York Times* bestselling **Throne of Glass** series

"*The Forbidden Wish* reminded me of all that I love about the story of Aladdin, now told through the eyes of a narrator who is as human and flawed as she is powerful and cunning. Add to that a compelling new romance and I found myself adoring this tale immensely, from beginning to end."

—**Marissa Meyer**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cinder* and **The Lunar Chronicles**

"*The Forbidden Wish* has everything you'd hope for in a retelling of the Aladdin story—hanging-by-your-fingertips danger, palace intrigue, a dark villain, forbidden love, a swashbuckling hero, and a feisty, dagger-eyed princess, and yet each richly written chapter in this thrilling adventure story is full of unexpected surprises. I was utterly absorbed from the first page!"

—**Colleen Houck**, author of the *New York Times* bestselling **Tiger's Curse** series

"This is Aladdin like you've never imagined. Filled with unexpected twists and turns reminiscent of a magic carpet ride, Jessica Khoury's *The Forbidden Wish* is a must-read for anyone who loves a fantastic story."

—**Renée Ahdieh**, author of *The Wrath and the Dawn*

### About the Author

**Jessica Khoury** holds a BA in English from Toccoa Falls College. When not writing, she spends her time on the soccer pitch or traveling the world. She lives in Easley, South Carolina, with her husband and two dogs. Jessica is also the author of *Origin*, *Vitro*, and *Kalahari*. Follow her on Twitter @jkbibliophile. For more info, visit [www.jessicakhoury.com](http://www.jessicakhoury.com).

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