



Adijan and Her Genie

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Adijan, a poor messenger girl in an Arabian Nights fantasy world, wishes she could build a world-spanning business empire. Shalimar, her wife, wishes Adijan would spend more time at home. Their landlord wishes Adijan would pay the rent. Adijan's brother-in-law wishes she would get trampled by a herd of camels so that he could marry his sister Shalimar to someone affluent and influential. And of all the wishes in the world, Adijan wishes the genie she's saddled with would grant her wishes instead of treating her with disdain. Be careful what you wish for in a world of genies, sorcerers, and flying carpets.

Adijan and Her Genie Details

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From Reader Review Adijan and Her Genie for online ebook

D. says

This was a great book, it was SIMPLY GREAT, this one really beats her other book Lady Knight. This one was mostly drama and suspense, with some adventure. Very little action and no "romance" scene. Nevertheless, it was a great story. The flaw that I would have is that it didn't really described the characters, like how they look like or their age, except for one. I liked that it focused in the story a lot, but it was too much, like I said about not describing the characters.

Overall: Great book with a great ending, I really recommend it if you like this kind of things and I hope to see more stories like this one from her. I also hope that she adds some "steamy" scenes, that would make it much better for me.

Eden says

2.5 Stars.

I desperately wanted this to be better than it was (I am tired of the relentless heterosexuality of most books I read). Unfortunately it was an interesting idea with a mediocre execution.

Penguin says

I'm pretty sure I read this book all in one sitting. It was really interesting and I didn't want to put it down until I was at the end of Adijan's journey.

I didn't expect the love interest to be who it was, but the ending made me love it. Definitely a good read.

lov2laf says

Adijan and her Genie is a charming and enjoyable read.

What I really appreciated about the book is how unique it is, especially in this genre. In lesfic we see many of the same dynamics rehashed but not here.

How is this book different from others?

Well, usually, we're not plopped in a desert so the setting is completely different than usual.

The story title says "Genie" but there's a twist on the magical element and the stereotypes we usually find.

The lead is completely imperfect yet likable.

A lot goes wrong but there's also an element of the ridiculous and humor below the surface.

The lesbian couple is already established and unusually unique; who they are, they're dynamic with each other.

Though this may be considered lesfic due to a lesbian lead, the story isn't about the romantic couple. They exist but it's more about an unlikely friendship that forms between our lead and her curmudgeon genie.

Overall, the narrative itself is completely unique, fun to follow, and the cast of characters are well done.

I will say that the book lacks a little of the finesse I've encountered in other fantasy-type reads. It's hard to put my finger on but some scenes end a little too abruptly and perhaps there is less descriptive filler or character reactions that would've polished the rougher edges. Regardless, the story and characters really pull off the narrative. It's still well-written, has a really sweet sentiment, and is one to read.

Recommend.

David says

This is a surprisingly touching story with an unusual love interest.

Marthese Formosa says

cross posted at the lesbrary: <http://lesbrary.com/2015/01/18/marthe...>

I love queer fairytale retellings! Although I do not think this is much of a fairytale. It's set in the Arabian Nights fantasy world and has a few elements of the folktale Aladdin, in the sense that there is a poor messenger who's however a girl and there is a genie, who's not really a genie.

Adijan is a messenger girl, who dreams of having her own business and is a bit too fond of drinking despite being really hard-working. She's married to Shalimar, a very kind woman who is always happy and yet always thought of as simple, much to Adijan's annoyance. It is evident that Adijan loves Shalimar, but she is also slave to vices and wasn't such a good spouse. This book, full of adventure and Adijan being kicked out from countless places, follows the journey of Adijan to try and get back Shalimar from where she is being kept by her brother Hadim.

While set in an invented Arabian country, Adijan and Shalimar's relationship is accepted and legitimate. The problem lies in wealth not in their orientation and love. Something that really bothered me was that Adijan was continuously misgendered and most times she did not correct these assumptions where from her gender expression and clothing her gender was judged.

Adijan and the 'genie', don't really get on at first. However, I thought it was great that even though they did not like each other, they were respectful, using correct names, considerately describing time and place and consoling one another. They eventually come to understand and care for one another. Nonetheless, you also see two people battling their wills against each other because they both have big and fundamental dreams.

Injustices to the social system, especially in courts and wealth are addressed. It's a book that says a lot about non-materialistic values. For someone that was looking to get rich, Adijan got that freedom and love were priceless. Privilege was understood as it was lost. For being a fun book, it also has serious themes.

I really enjoyed the characters of Zobeidé once she stopped getting on my nerves, and of Adijan's aunt Takush who owns a 'friendly house' and her suitor Fakir. A bonus in this book were the insults which often contain some form of 'camel' to them.

I liked how Zobeidé did not forgive simply because her old tutor apologized and said he was set up to do what he did. Stripping freedom from someone is inexcusable.

This book ended on a great note. Something that was lost, even if in a land of magic, was still not magically made better and in that it was realistic. To end, you find yourself being angry at Adijan, then pitying her and then laughing at something. This book is a fast read and a true adventure.

Aditi says

Quite funny and enjoyed the queer couple at the center of the story.

Cee Jelly says

2,5/5

In which Adijan, accompanied by a frowning genie, goes on an almost desperate quest in hope of saving her wife from a forced marriage. Turn out, the quest isn't that desperate in the end. And Adijan's magical pal stops frowning along the way, which is beautiful, I tell you, beautiful.

Rather than romance, this book is more focused on Adijan's growth and her unwilling friend's learning new cool street stuffs. And those awkward bonding moments, too. I look fondly on this book for this very reason. Two characters, for different purposes, have to work together and learn from each other on the way to their destination. I know it is not special, but believe me, rarely can you see a story achieve this plotline satisfyingly. This book touches that spot well and it warms my heart. (view spoiler)

Leaving that lovely dynamic aside, there are other pros I would like to mention. The gay acceptance is a nice detail, I'm tired of those kind of angst. Shalimar and Adijan's cliché conflict (view spoiler) is done away with gratefully quick and neat. The world-building is finery, too.

And finally, a novel from L.J Baker that does resolve the protagonist's mental issue. It is not handled as satisfiable as I would like it to be (then again it may just be me wanting more flashy angst), but it is acknowledged and overcome nonetheless. How Adijan turns from hating to appreciating other supportive characters is a pleasant surprise, which deepened the world's reality and her personality. Her genie pal is a very well-built character, L.J Baker create a sweet heart under the harsh disdainful outline (with what she is put through, who wouldn't be so?). Personally, I just love this character in all way, her growth is just as interesting, and dare I say even more, as Adijan's.

Cutting off my craze over the genie, because it will never end if I don't refrain, here are some cons that prevented the book from being truly good.

The story and the result of Adijan's quest is pretty predictable. (view spoiler) Some scene transitions are very sudden and causes mild confusions now and then. The book also drags out in places, there are some pages and some conversations I think can be cut down. The final show-down relies a lot on (view spoiler) Last grain of sand, genie gives Adijan a lot of responsibility at the end of the book, which I'm skeptical about because we haven't seen Adijan shows any skill in that field. (view spoiler)

In conclusion, this book shines in characters' relationship and mediocre in everything else. Still, to me it's an enjoyable read.

M says

A very sweet formulaic plot with the twist of Alladin being a woman and having to complete a quest to save her marriage to her beautiful wife and become a better person. Obviously this is a fantasy story, and plays to this genre's tropes, but what improves this story to make it a 4 star read is the quality of the writing.

The world creation, character drawing and dialogue make this a superior read.

Claudia Piña says

Wlw, genios y una protagonista fantástica; combinación justa para mí.

laura? says

A cute, fun read. I like that Adijan actually had to work through her problems and addictions and that they weren't just brushed aside, and I liked that we actually saw her grow. I was a bit worried about how Shalimar's MI would be treated, but I was really glad to see most people, including Adijan and the narrative, shut down the logic that said that she was 'childlike' and needed to be treated like one. And there were some good bits about agency and consent, and the romance was cute.

Not the greatest book ever, but still really fun.

Katelyn Macri says

Reading the eBook version.

Catherine says

An enjoyable Arabian-Nights style adventure with a lesbian protagonist. I liked the idea, the way that Baker deals with the protagonist's alcoholism and that the love interest is differently abled. The plot does get redundant, particularly toward the end, but overall, this is a fun read.

Erica says

Adijan gets back from a business trip to find that her asshole brother-in-law has taken her wife Shalimar back to his house, and he plans to force them to get divorced. Adijan loves Shalimar more than anything, but a poor courier who was raised in a brothel has no chance of winning a legal battle against an influential man like Shalimar's brother. Her only hope lies in the magical locket that has somehow wound up in her possession ... except the being trapped inside it isn't a traditional genie. The only wish she can grant is "give me the best sex of my life", and she hates doing that, and hates everyone who's ever demanded it of her. Adijan doesn't like her much, but you can't just leave someone as a sex slave, so they set off on a quest to free the genie and get Adijan's wife back.

I think my favourite part of this is that Adijan fits a character trope that we see all the time, but pretty much never in women. She's an eternal fuckup, with big dreams but a low-paying job she struggles to keep, she drinks too much and pisses everyone off, but deep down she has a good heart and loves her wife more than anything in the world. Kind of like if Homer Simpson were a cute Middle Eastern lesbian.
