



# Djinn

*Sang Kromah*

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## **Djinn** Sang Kromah

Some believe that at birth, we're each born with a guardian attached to us, watching from afar, but never seen. Truth is, there are certain people, special people, born of this world and of the other, who need that extra protection. They go their entire lives, unaware of the other world, and unaware of the existence of their own personal watcher, watching from afar. But what happens when fate takes a turn for the worse, and The One who needs the aid of a watcher most can't be found to be protected?

Bijou Fitzroy is strange. With the unwanted gift of being an empath, she has spent her entire life as a sheltered recluse, homeschooled by her secretive and overprotective grandmother, who never allows them to stay in one place long enough for Bijou to settle and make friends. When Bijou and her grandmother move to Sykesville and she starts to attend the local high school, Bijou's world begins to crumble. Town locals begin to disappear and the creatures from her nightmares begin to take shape in her reality. She finds herself at the center of a war she never knew was being fought all around her.

## **Djinn Details**

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Author : Sang Kromah

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# From Reader Review Djinn for online ebook

## Gbelley Taylor says

I got a copy of the book from the publisher.

It took a few attempts to start reading the book, because of my busy schedule, but once I started, I finished reading it within 24 hrs. Djinn is a page turner that keeps the reader guessing right to the end. I loved how Author Sang Kroma incorporated African folklore (Liberian) like the Mami Wata that I grew up on. I can not wait till the next one.

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## Sydney Culpepper says

A fascinating and complex tale filled with magic and mystery and pop culture references, Djinn is pure fun. Kromah has woven together stories and myths from across cultures into a thrilling story of her own.

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## Margaret Lee says

My friend received this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review and all I can say is WOW!

I just finished watching season five of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, so I caught a lot of Bijou's (the MC) subtle and not so subtle references. It was hilarious and I loved that every chapter is named after a different Buffy episode.

\*\*\*Spoilers Ahead\*\*\*

Bijou Fitzroy is complicated...not just strange. She's socially awkward because she's been homeschooled for like forever and kept in isolation by her grandmother, who happens to be a popular author, who writes under a pseudonym. Oh and Bijou is an empath, so she feels what most people feel, except for certain people. Her grandmother is harsh. She doesn't allow Bijou to take friends and thinks she's better than everyone. When the story begins, Bijou is comparing herself to her grandmother and it's clear from the beginning that she is going through some sort of identity crisis. She knows nothing about her parents or where they're from. She's not even sure what race she is. You also get the feeling that she's insecure about her looks.

When they move to this small town, Bijou's grandmother reluctantly allows her to finally go to school. Bijou is constantly shuffling playing cards to distract her from the emotions. Soon after starting school, she realizes it won't be easy because her physical appearance makes people stare and her eyes frighten people. She meets Sebastian, this hot guy who's supposed to show her around and he and his twin sister are the only ones who can make eye contact with her.

Bijou and Sebastian are drawn to each other immediately, but Sebastian is constantly fighting it. One minute, it's obvious he likes her and the next, he can't seem to get away from her fast enough. Of course, there's this

mean girl, Mandy, who likes Sebastian and makes it clear from the first day of school that Bijou needs to stay away from Sebastian.

Let me rant about Mandy for a minute. She's worst than Regina George. She's a horrible person and even tries to drown Bijou. And that's just on the first day of school. She does her best to turn everyone against Bijou and, for the most part, it works.

Outside of all the first-day drama, there's this creepy guy that has been following Bijou for years, but Bijou thought it was all in her mind until Amina see him too. Up until this point, Bijou thinks she's crazy. After that Girls start disappearing and they all share the same birthday with Bijou.

**DRAMA!!!**

Soon enough the truth about who Bijou is and who she is destined to be is exposed as it seems like this little town is the center of hell and Bijou is the key that has opened it up.

Sang Kromah is a strategic storyteller. 'Djinn's' lore is so deeply entrenched with diverse originality that you're sucked into the stories within stories that are effortlessly unfolding before your eyes.

I can honestly say I didn't expect what was coming and how deep this story really was.

I'm anxiously awaiting the next installment.

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### **Benjamin Gorman says**

Fans of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Supernatural, and Stephenie Meyer's Twilight will love this rich, intricate high school drama where the supernatural world complicates the already fraught politics of an American high school. But this novel does more than those, weaving African folklore into the foundational mythology of the story and populating the world with a far more diverse cast so that modern readers will see themselves and a more realistic set of their peers navigating an unreal world of magical powers. This took me right back to my high school experience; I may not have been surrounded by Djinn, but I was trapped in a world where the emotional stakes often felt more important than the physical and social consequences of decisions, and I could empathize with the way Bijou Fitzroy and the other characters often make impulsive, irrational decisions because their passions are so powerful. Teens will recognize the veracity of Kromah's voice, and us olds will be taken on a journey back to our youth.

Full Disclosure: I'm one of the co-publishers of the company publishing this novel. We enjoyed Djinn so much we decided to publish it, and we think you'll love it, too!

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### **Sang Kromah says**

How could I not give 'Djinn' five-stars when I wrote it? I feel like I've poured my heart into this book. When I was a kid, my parents would tell me stories about djinn. In Liberia, these stories are very popular, but one particular story always stuck with me about a girl named Femeni that escaped what should have been certain

death at the hands of a notorious jena/djinn named Zoom.

Femeni was known for being disobedient. She never respected her elders and no amount of discipline changed her behavior. There was a lagoon that the town's children used to swim at, but everyone knew that it was forbidden to swim there during a certain time on Fridays. One Friday, Femeni daringly went to the lagoon and spent the afternoon swimming, declaring that nothing would happen to her. That evening as she began her walk home, the moon was full and soon, the ground began to shake. Femeni heard a voice begin to sing in Mandingo, "Where is Femeni? Femeni was here. I'm looking for Femeni." As Zoom sang his song, Femeni ran as fast as she could back to town, knocking on doors, but as she approached, singing in Mandingo, "Help! Help! It's Femeni. Open the door. Zoom is After me," door after door shut before her. As Zoom got closer, Femeni was certain, this was the end for her, but as she ran she realized she was drawing closer to a familiar house. Her grandmother's. When she knocked on the door to announce herself, her grandmother asked, "If I open the door, will you behave yourself from this day forward?"

Femeni answered, "Yes Maman!"

Her grandmother then asked, "Will you respect your elders from this day forth?"

Once again, Femeni answered, "Yes Maman!"

The door flew open, and Femeni to her grandmother, who shut the door before Zoom, saving Femeni from what could have been death or being taken to the Otherworld.

As you can probably tell, Femeni's story was my favorite and over the years I've written countless stories about Femeni. 'Djinn' is the story of Femeni's daughter.

There are so many stories, but the problem we face is that most of our stories are told orally and as our worlds become bigger and we leave our places of origin, many of these stories die with our old people. This is why it's important that we write our own stories before they're all lost.

For years, I re-wrote different versions of that story, wondering if Femeni ever had any more encounters with the djinn, what happened to her, and what if she had a daughter of her own? I hounded my dad with questions about the story's origin. He couldn't give me much other than the Arabian and Islamic origins of the djinn, so I created my own legend, based on tradition and lore. This is how 'Djinn' was born.

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## **Heather Ransom says**

With equal parts of excitement and apprehension, Djinn plunges us immediately into a fast-moving, fascinating YA coming-of-age fantasy. More than just a "good struggling against the darkness" confrontation, Kromah reveals relentless twists and shocking truths faced by beautifully flawed characters. In times when anxiety and confusion are part of the daily routine, we meet Bijou Fitzroy, an intense teen struggling with her own fractured identity. Determined to find her place at her new school and with her peers, Bijou, who desperately wants to be normal, realizes her connection to a strange old world, one that's clashing her current life with an ancient prophecy, transforming her not-so-typical reality into an intense magical journey where finding her true, inner strength is crucial to saving those she loves. With irresistible appeal, Djinn reminds us of the importance of family and friends who will stand by our side through anything, regardless of the consequences!

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### **Annalysia Gonzalez says**

*Djinn* is a great story full of surprises! You are given a girl named Bijou living with her grandmother and is just starting her first day of junior year at a school in Sykesville, Maryland. She is living a normal life with wanting friends and love. After a while she make friends with twins Sebastian and Amina who have transferred from Australia a little before she arrived. People start to go missing and her world is Crumbling before her. I believe that everyone should give this book a try because it is too good not to read.

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### **M.K. Martin says**

One of the things I liked the most about *Djinn* was the mixing of Buffy nostalgia with African (Liberian) mythology. Bijou has led a sheltered life, hidden away by her secretive grandmother until at 16 she's finally able to attend public school for the first time. As Bijou learns to navigate the traitorous waters of high school mean girls, first crushes, and unfriendly teachers she also finds herself embroiled in the mystery of what's happening to girls who share her birthday. Is Bijou, like Buffy, a "Chosen One"?

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### **Esther says**

*Thanks to the author for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.*

This book was on my "soon-to-read" list for a while. I didn't really feel connected to either the cover or the blurb, but when I started reading it went pretty fast. This book is written very well and I was able to get through it on a nice pace.

A longer review can be found at [Bite Into Books](#)

I did not know this author and I do feel the story is well written with a nice pacing and easy to read. The explanation for all the mystery is satisfying and I do feel a lot of people who like YA/Fantasy will like this book. But.. You know...

Maybe I'm a bit too old for it....?! Did I just say that? Yup...

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### **Karen Eisenbrey says**

*Djinn* is a twisty page-turner about magic and identity, rooted in folklore but with a 21st century spin. The unfolding tale keeps the reader guessing right to the end.

Bijou Fitzroy just wants to fit in. She knows she's different, perhaps mentally ill; she constantly shuffles cards to calm her nerves, she's hypersensitive to the feelings of others, and her color-changing eyes seem to freak people out. She has no idea what's wrong with her, and Gigi, the wealthy, uncannily young grandmother who raised her, isn't telling. Home-schooled until the age of 16, everything she knows about high school comes from Buffy the Vampire Slayer. So when she moves to the small town of Sykesville and

enrolls in public school for the first time in her life, she hopes to make friends, go to parties, maybe have a boyfriend. She thinks her wish has come true when she meets Sebastian and Amina Sinjin, though she can't tell what Sebastian is feeling. Her teacher Mr. Jennings has it in for her, and seems to think *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is non-fiction. And what's up with mean girl Mandy, who takes an immediate dislike to Bijou? Is she only jealous about Sebastian, or is something more going on?

When Bijou learns that local girls who share her birthdate have been disappearing, she can't resist digging into the mystery. What she learns causes her to question everything she thought she knew about her family, her new friends, and most of all, herself. It's possible she's not only different; she may be the Chosen One. Who can she trust when no one is what they seem? What looks at first like petty teenage rivalry turns out to have earth-shattering stakes, and Bijou has to choose: escape to safety or risk everything to protect those she has come to care about.

Bijou's story, like Buffy's before her, applies a magnifier of myth and magic to typical adolescent issues of identity, belonging, and empowerment. Author Kromah widens the folklore scope to include African (specifically, Liberian) sources, enriching material that may be familiar to some readers and new to others. And this satisfying book's ending is temptingly left open for sequels. More? Yes, please!

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### **Lizbeth Rosales says**

Djinn just confused me a lot through out the book. The fantasy about this book confuses me because it jumps to one topic to another. This book won't be for everyone, I can see 15 yr and up reading this. By the way the description is written on the cover of the book sounded exciting, just disappointed me.

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### **YALMC says**

Hauntingly captivating. Perfect for fans of *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* and all things myth and fantasy. I can't wait to read the next one!

Full review is here!!

Admittedly, I wasn't sure how hard I'd fall before starting it – I'm not usually a fan of fantasy set within our world – but from the beginning, I was hooked. Bijou's story drew me in – I had to know how her mad desire to attend high school would play out (I HATED high school). In the end, I also adored the contemporary US setting. It's where Djinn needs to be:

“Western civilization ... has romanticized the djinn by turning it into a friendly blue creature that resides in a magic lamp, granting wishes... They have turned what most Africans and scholars refer to as *Mami Wata* into a singing girl with a tail and call it a mermaid, but if you were to encounter the real deal, it would be nothing to sing about” (Loc 941).

How do we see things? What stories are we told? are both at the heart of Djinn. Western culture is a sponge, absorbing and sterilizing (academic me would say homogenizing) characters, and stories from across the world. For the people and groups whose stories are taken, this absorbing isn't a particularly nice process, which is why stories like Djinn are so important. They help those of us enmeshed in Western culture see

beyond the trappings and packagings we're fed by mainstream media. Kromah's interweaving African, especially Liberian, folklore into contemporary Western culture — fans of Buffy are certainly in for a treat — unwraps the packaging allowing readers to see, to know, more about the world.

"Seeing more" is reflected in Bijou's empathetic abilities.

"With the Typicals, their emotions rub off on me when they're in close proximity. It's even worse if they happen to make eye contact; I see things — sometimes truly horrible things" (Loc 60).

Dividing the world into Typicals (humans) and Others (something else), Bijou can see more than a person's external packaging, and I think this is where the true beauty of Kromah's book resides... For the rest, you'll really just have to read! (I'm more than happy to talk about the 9-million other things I loved once you have!!). — Leah

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### **Iman Furbee says**

This book was amazing, and is also really important.

I know it sounds cliché, but growing up I didn't have many books from my culture so I found myself feeling displaced, as if I were somehow wrong, or I needed to change myself. I grew up on tales of djinn being Muslim and African, but this was never reflected around me making me feel alienated. I felt like I couldn't be the heroine of my own story because I don't look like one but this book was different. It made me feel like I could be the protagonist in my own story. That's why I think this book is important and I absolutely adore the author for writing this :)

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### **Shaunte Stallworth says**

**Captivating...I literally could not stop reading it.**

This book had my attention from the very beginning...it will be apart of my favorite reads. I hope to see a sequel...

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### **Carole P. Roman says**

Bijoux Fitzroy has lived a sheltered but fascinating life. Raised by her beautiful and strange grandmother, she has been kept away from society and homeschooled. Bijoux is different. She feels things. Being in society is difficult, her empathic feeling overwhelms her senses making her have strange visions. Gigi, her grandmother has decided she must attend school and sends Bijoux out into the world armed with a superior education, but little in the way to protect her from the bullies she will encounter outside the safety of her home.

Enter Sebastian and his sister Amina, transfer students from Australia, who take on the responsibility of guiding her and protecting Bijoux from dangers she is just now beginning to understand. They are not whom they seem to be, but then again, Bijoux will learn nobody is whom he or she seems to be and the secret of her history must be unraveled for her to survive the future.

Sang Komah cuts a wide swath through world myths and curiosities taking histories best legends to combine



them in an explosive fantasy that is gripping as it is fast-paced. Each chapter propels the reader to the next one, wondering where Sebastian and the Djinns will take Bijoux and if her fate will be entwined with theirs. The start of a great series.

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