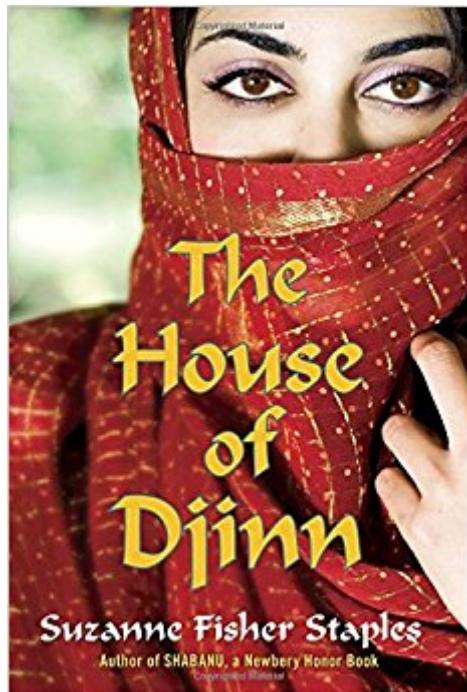


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# The House Of Djinn



## **Synopsis**

Mumtaz, daughter of Shabanu, has lived with her father's traditional Muslim family for 10 years, enduring the scorn of her auntie Leyla day in and day out. Her only protectors are her uncle Omar and Baba, patriarch of the Amirzai tribe, but even they would disown her if they knew she had a crush on a Hindu boy. The only person Mumtaz can confide in is her cousin Jameel. Unfortunately, Jameel lives with his parents in California and he's been out of touch since he fell in love with a Jewish girl. When Baba dies unexpectedly, Mumtaz's world is thrown into chaos. Without Baba keeping order in the tribe, Mumtaz and Jameel find themselves thrust together in the middle of an ongoing power struggle—the same one that sent Shabanu into hiding a decade earlier. A compelling conclusion to the trilogy that began with the Newbery Honor Book Shabanu and continued in Haveli, The House of Djinn explores the delicate balance between freedom and tradition in modern-day Pakistan.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

"Readers will ponder the questions about responsibility and freedom Staples raises in the intriguing marriage drama." "--Booklist""Atmospheric and suspenseful...Western and Islamic ways clash, yet the author so thoroughly immerses readers in the setting that few will want to judge. Like most of

Staples's fiction, this work significantly enlarges the reader's understanding of a complex society" --Starred, "Publishers Weekly" "Eloquently written...Staples skillfully draws readers into the complicated web of relationships in the fictional Amirzai family in this fascinating tale of the conflict between tribal tradition and modernization in contemporary Pakistan." --Starred, "Kirkus Reviews" "Splendidly drawn...moves along quickly and intensely with elements of intrigue and adventure, holding readers' attention and sympathies." "--School Library Journal" "Readers will ponder the questions about responsibility and freedom Staples raises in the intriguing marriage drama." "--Booklist""Atmospheric and suspenseful...Western and Islamic ways clash, yet the author so thoroughly immerses readers in the setting that few will want to judge. Like most of Staples's fiction, this work significantly enlarges the reader's understanding of a complex society" --Starred, "Publishers Weekly" "Eloquently written...Staples skillfully draws readers into the complicated web of relationships in the fictional Amirzai family in this fascinating tale of the conflict between tribal tradition and modernization in contemporary Pakistan." --Starred, "Kirkus Reviews" "Splendidly drawn...moves along quickly and intensely with elements of intrigue and adventure, holding readers' attention and sympathies." "--School Library Journal" "Readers will ponder the questions about responsibility and freedom Staples raises in the intriguing marriage drama." "--Booklist""The skirmishes, intrigues, and loves of the colorful Pakistani/ American tribal family give this book the tenor of a short dynastic ep

SUZANNE FISHER STAPLES is an award-winning author whose novels for young adults include Dangerous Skies, Shiva's Fire, the Newbery Honor Book Shabanu, and its sequel, Haveli. Before writing books, she worked for many years as a UPI correspondent in Asia, with stints in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India. She currently resides in Nicholson, Pennsylvania.

"The House of Djinn" brings to a close the trilogy begun in "Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind", a Newbery Honor Book. I found all three books a fascinating glimpse into a culture and world that was totally unfamiliar to me. Although the books are fiction, the author states that the stories are based on actual interviews with women from the Pakistan region. "The House of Djinn" tells the story of Shabanu's daughter "Muti" as ancient traditions collide with modern ideas regarding a woman's role. One is left hanging about Shabanu's future, but there is hope that this independent, resourceful "daughter of the wind" will make her own way to happiness, as she always has. I would recommend this book for young people as well as adults. The story is well told and moves along at a fast clip.

When reading this book, I felt as if its relation to the first book in the trilogy (the Newberry Award-winning "Shabanu") was something like the relationship of "Scarlett" to "Gone With the Wind." Whereas the first two (wonderful!) books focus on Shabanu and the intricacies of life in Pakistan and Pakistani society, "The House of Djinn" bounces its focus to Mumtaz and the heretofore unknown Jameel, while Shabanu herself appears barely twice. While the first two books are rich with detail on the landscape, cities, rituals, and intrigue, this book jumps clumsily from scene to scene, name-dropping skateboard tricks. I remember being left on the edge of my seat when "Haveli" ended, and after growing impatient with years of waiting for a resolution, visiting the author's website and discovering that she had never planned to write a third book at all. This felt akin to Tolkien's simply ending his books at the Two Towers with "Frodo was alive, and taken by the enemy." I was horrified. I couldn't have been happier when she decided to write this book to resolve those missing questions. Alas, the book is so rushed and thin on detail that it's almost as if it was written by someone else. It does NOT read like the grandchild of the Newberry Award-winning "Shabanu." I didn't connect with a single character in the book, even the ones I'd liked before. I'm bitterly disappointed...she resolved the issues only technically, as if saying "here's your book, now leave me alone." A final thought: this is the fourth book I've read by Suzanne Fisher Staples, and I've come to notice that every single one of them (the Shabanu trilogy and "Shiva's Fire") seem to end right in the middle of the climax. While open endings are appropriate for some stories, after a while it starts to feel lazy. Finishing her books with no sense of closure is jarring. Enjoy "Shabanu" and "Haveli," but stop there.

Shabanu and Haveli have had far more effort and time devoted to storytelling than this book. This was a disappointment.

A very magic realism-esque take on the dichotomy of being Pakistani and American. I like Mumtaz as a character more than shabanu, as she seems somehow more grounded. The whole Chloe plotline was very heavy handed tho, and detracted from the overall plot.

Beautiful. Shabanu, Haveli, and now The House of Djinn. Absolutely beautiful. Each one transports you. I couldn't put this book down and ended up reading it straight through. Strongly recommend this book.

great read

This is the third book in this trilogy. It's story about life in Pakistan as a young girl in a traditional household is disturbing with undertones of hope for the future. It's not an easy read but is well worth it.

The original book is better; however you feel for the situation of young people from different cultures who are raised in America.

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