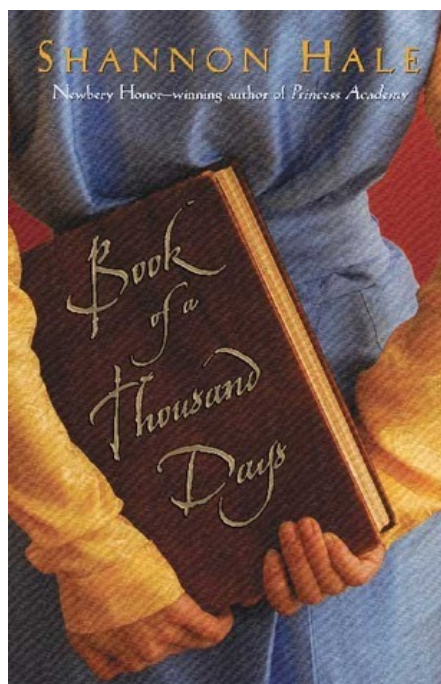




Book of a Thousand Days

Shannon Hale , James Noel Smith (Illustrator)

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When Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years because of Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, the two prepare for a very long and dark imprisonment.

As food runs low and the days go from broiling hot to freezing cold, it is all Dashti can do to keep them fed and comfortable. With the arrival outside the tower of Saren's two suitors--one welcome, the other decidedly less so--the girls are confronted with both hope and great danger, and Dashti must make the desperate choices of a girl whose life is worth more than she knows.

With Shannon Hale's lyrical language, this little-known classic fairy tale from the Brothers Grimm is reimaged and reset on the central Asian steppes; it is a completely unique retelling filled with adventure and romance, drama and disguise.

Book of a Thousand Days Details

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Author : Shannon Hale , James Noel Smith (Illustrator)

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Download and Read Free Online Book of a Thousand Days Shannon Hale , James Noel Smith (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Book of a Thousand Days for online ebook

Angie says

Hale has proved herself adept at finding obscure fairy tales and reworking them in mouth-watering new ways. Her latest offering is based on the little-known "Maid Maleen" by the Brothers Grimm. A lady and her loyal maid are locked in a tower for seven years as punishment for the lady's refusal to marry the man her father wants her to. The story details their imprisonment in the tower and the adventure that follows. Hale's version is told in diary format from the point of view of the maid--Dashti. I finished this one with mixed feelings. The conclusion I came to is that I wanted more. There was so much potential yet I felt I wasn't allowed to scratch past the surface of things. I liked Dashti, but she didn't have to struggle that hard to get what she got. Or at least her struggle wasn't given the gravity it deserved. Lady Saren, who had quite clearly been driven mad by some atrocious event, was so wonderfully vacant and creepy. I wanted to get to the root of her madness. When I finally found out, it was appropriately weird but it wasn't given enough time or depth. I wanted more. More psychological exploration, more emotion, more pages in general. Her previous books are chock full of it and so this one came off a bit...flat. These comments aside, I always recommend Shannon Hale highly and I eagerly await the fourth Bayern book.

Carla *Jen7waters* says

OMG

THIS BOOK.

Shannon Hale you mastermind!!!

I cannot believe I had this GEM untouched on my bookshelf for so long---why, why am I an idiot?? Awww, it was so cute, and lovely, and emotional, and fairytale-like! What am I saying? This isn't just fairytale-like, this IS in fact a fairytale retold, and the original is called "Maid Maleen" by the Brothers Grimm. It basically tells the story of two girls, one a princess (not really a princess, but the daughter of a very rich and powerful lord) the other one her maid, who get imprisoned in a tower because the princess refuses to marry this evil guy. A few years later they manage to escape and find out everyone in the kingdom is dead -- so they travel to a neighbour kingdom and start working in the kitchen of another powerful lord's house, but this one is kind and lovely and everything a woman wants in a man. The original story has the princess as the protagonist, but Shannon made the maid the heroine of **Book of a Thousand Days**, and I have to say IT WORKED.

I love the irony between this book and my absolute favorite by the author, which is Goose Girl -- the stories are similar, but in Goose Girl the maid is vicious and steals the princess's identity, while in **Book of a Thousand Days** the poor maid, Dashti, has to pretend she's the princess because the real one is constantly afraid of the world and makes Dashti do things for her.

I absolutely loved Dashti's voice and practical manner during the whole story; loved how she took care of what needed to be done most of the times under the worst circumstances; loved her undeniable loyalty towards her loony lady; loved the touching memories and stories regarding her mother, the only person she had in the world (YOU BREAK MY HEART SHANNON HALE!); loved how, in time, she realized she could make a difference, even if she wasn't born in a golden crib. I say, this is quite the flawless heroine. The writing is typical Shannon Hale: musical, addictive, sarcastic, brilliant, and my only regret is that the final events happened too fast -- I wanted more!

Definitely one of the best books I've read this year so far, and a new all time favorite. Go read it!

PT Cuidado com o Dálmata -- Book of a Thousand Days

Fairy Tales Retold Challenge 2012 ~ 5/12

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Jessica Cave for TeensReadToo.com

Shannon Hale's BOOK OF A THOUSAND DAYS is a riveting read that allows you to see into the soul of a young girl.

Angry at her for not marrying the ruler of a nearby kingdom, Lady Saren's father locks her and her maid in a tower. He plans to leave them there for seven years. It is Dashti, the maid's, responsibility to keep them fed and in good condition, no matter how hot or how cold it may be.

With evil lords, unresponsive guards, and dreamy suitors knocking on their tiny window on a daily basis, they have enough views of outside life to keep living through to the next day. But when all signs of outside human life suddenly vanish, they find themselves in a race against time to save the eight realms and their own lives.

I started and ended this book in a single day (despite having household tasks, homework, and a to-do list longer than it's ever been before). I was caught up in the world of Dashti and her dear Lady Saren. Their tale brought me to tears and made me laugh.

This novel was definitely an enjoyable read that kept me turning pages as fast as I could.

Katie Grace says

I definitely liked the first half better than the last half (and I'm still convinced that I've read this before), but it was a good book. I love Shannon's writing style and how it's always so fairytale like and amazing. *needs to reread her Books of Bayern series immediately*

Sylvia says

Kisah yang sangat menakjubkan! Tanpa ragu saya memberikan bintang 5 untuk buku ini.

Book of a Thousand Days bercerita tentang kehidupan yang dijalani Lady Saren dan pembantunya Dashti saat mereka dikunci oleh ayah Lady Saren di menara selama 7 tahun karena Lady Saren menolak perjodohan dirinya dengan salah satu penguasa daerah, Lord Khasar. Kisah ini diceritakan oleh Dashti yang memang pandai menulis dan membaca.

Dashti datang untuk bekerja pada Lady Saren di hari kesatu tanpa mengetahui apa yang akan menyimpannya ketika Lady Saren menyuruhnya bersumpah tidak akan meninggalkannya. Dashti pun bersumpah dan dijabloskan ke dalam menara untuk menemani Lady Saren. Dashti menuliskan kegiatan dan kejadian yang menimpa mereka selama terkunci. Bagaimana persediaan makanan mereka perlahan-lahan digerogeti tikus, dan mereka harus berperang melawan tikus atau makanan mereka akan cepat habis.

Lalu kekasih Lady Saren, Khan Tegus, datang. Namun Lady Saren menyuruh Dashti untuk berpura-pura menjadi dirinya dan berbincang-bincang melalui sebuah lobang di menara tanpa pernah saling menatap wajah satu sama lainnya. Setelah tiga tahun mereka terkunci di menara dan tak ada seorang pun yang datang menolong mereka, kecuali Lord Khasar yang mengancam dan menakut-nakuti mereka, persediaan makanan pun menipis, dan Dashti harus berjuang agar mereka bisa keluar dari menara itu.

Setelah mereka berhasil keluar dari menara, mereka kembali ke kota Lady Saren untuk menemukan bahwa kotanya telah hancur dan semua anggota keluarganya mati. Kini tinggal dirinya dan Dashti yang tersisa. Tanpa memberitahu kemana mereka berjalan karena Lady Saren tak sudi menemui Khan Tegus, Dashti justru membawa Lady Saren ke kota Khan Tegus. Disana mereka bekerja sebagai pencuci panci kotor di dapur rumah Khan Tegus. Sementara itu Lady Saren tetap tak mau memberitahu jati dirinya karena khawatir dirinya akan dibunuh.

Keberuntungan sepertinya mengiringi Dashti terus, hingga akhirnya Dashti bisa menjadi juru tulis di rumah itu sementara Lady Saren tetap bekerja sebagai pencuci panci di dapur. Lady Saren yang rapuh perlahan mulai terlihat sembuh, sementara Lord Khasar dan pasukannya perlahan namun pasti menguasai hampir semua daerah sekitar, dan sebentar lagi kota mereka pun akan diserang.

Lord Khasar mengumumkan bahwa mereka tak akan menyerang kota itu, kalau mereka menyerahkan Lady Saren. Lagi-lagi Lady Saren menyuruh Dashti untuk menggantikan dirinya dan mengaku sebagai Lady Saren. Dashti tak bisa menolak karena dirinya sudah bersumpah setia. Dashti pun mengaku dirinya Lady Saren, dan mengorbankan dirinya ke Lord Khasar.

Apakah Dashti bisa terus menjaga Lady Saren dan tetap hidup setelah menghadapi Lord Khasar? Menjelang ending ceritanya makin seru dan saya kagum dengan cara bercerita Shannon Hale yang tidak mudah tertebak. Memang, saya berharap a happy ending (ya, saya memang kuno) tapi bagaimana happy endingnya, Shannon Hale mampu mengantarkan saya ke akhir cerita yang indah.

I really-really like this book *geleng-geleng ala Bollywood* Ide ceritanya orisinil dan alurnya tidak terlalu cepat juga tidak terlalu lambat. Pokoke pas dah :D

Cara says

Do you guys know that feeling when you just have finished an **astorishingly excellent** book? You feel full of life and understanding. It's why as readers we come back and back again and hope *this* will be the book that gives us that exhilaration. I guess it's akin to a literary high. This book did that for me and more. It deserves more than the five star rating.

Let's see if I'll be able to give a concise review without confusing people. This story is loosely based on an obscure Grimm fairy tale (Hale mentions which one it is at the end of the book). The premise is that Lady Saren will be locked up in a tower for seven years because she will not marry Lord Khashar. Lady Saren takes Dashti who oddly doesn't mind this arrangement. She comes from a harsh background and the guarantee of having food for seven straight years while serving someone of royal blood? It seems like the

gods have smiled upon her. Things start to look not so rosy anymore though, and Dashti and Lady Saren will be caught in a web of lies that will lead to an adventure neither of them could have seen coming.

The strongest point of the book for me was the character of Dashti. She is resilient, funny, caring, and loyal to a fault. The refreshing aspect about her is that she is definitely not your typical flawlessly pretty character. It's her spirit that brings forth her beauty, and that may sound cheesy but it's true. Like any other character she has her shortfalls, but comes to realize how stunted her view of things was. The author does an excellent job of weaving in the Mongolian setting and customs so the reader feels as if this is a real place. Since this is written in journal form we really get the mood Dashti's in and the progression of her and Saren's growth. Throughout we see some illustrations that aid in the storytelling. I imagine this would be a great story to read out loud. I **LOVED** Khan Tegus, and that's all I have to say about him because anything else I would say wouldn't even come close to describing his wonderfulness.

Shannon Hale has permanently become one of my favorite authors, she was already but now she is cemented, written in black sharpie, engraved **permanent**. Hale is more than an author, she is a bona fide storyteller.

I will have to retire from this review before I totally botch it up, but I want to conclude that the characters are lovely, the story enchanting, and displays the power of the written word.

Faith M:) says

I have mixed feelings on this book. Shannon Hale is one of my most favorite authors, so I had huge expectations for this book.

Pros: The culture was really interesting, with the gods, lords, class, setting, etc. The ending was also very good!!! It surprised me!!!

Cons: There were several inappropriate parts in the book, which didn't need to be added AT ALL. The story would've been much better without it.

I also found the book to be very slow. It took a while for the book to go anywhere.

Not my favorite book, but not terrible.

Jessica says

Quite possibly Shannon's best book! A joyous read, rich with detail and written in the author's inimitable, poetic style. I not only felt a deep connection for the narrator, but also for the male protagonist, and the Mongolia-like world she created was gorgeous to behold. Lovely, lovely, lovely!

Tauna says

Sigh. I really, *really* wanted to love this book because I love Shannon Hale and all my Goodreads friends have given it 5 or 4 stars but... I just *didn't*.

I didn't like Dashti or Saren. Really, I HATED Saren. More often than not I wanted to beat her head against a rock. She's stupid, annoying, and a terrible person. Dashti, the narrator, wasn't much better. While people who like the book would probably say that she's just fiercely loyal, I found her to be kind of an idiot. I think I would've bought the whole "maid willing to be locked up for 7 years to serve her lady" thing if Dashti had been with Saren for years before it had happened. But no, Dashti had literally just met Lady Saren when she agreed to be locked in a tower for 7 years with a whiny brat she didn't even know. I don't find that to be loyal, I find it to be idiotic. Especially (view spoiler)

I appreciated the whole ancient Mongolian kind of feel and backdrop for the book, but the *constant* references to the Eternal Blue Sky and the Sacred 9 really started to grate on my nerves. If I had a dollar for every time Dashti said "Ancestors, forgive me" or talked about praying to a specific god I would be able to buy myself a nice, big library of books I actually enjoy. I also found that I was annoyed by the healing songs Dashti would sing, mostly because she would ALWAYS preface it by saying "I sang the song for [whatever], the one that goes like this....." as if knowing the nonsensical words would actually mean anything to read.

I could go on, but just know that Shannon Hale has done much better. The Goose Girl is fantastic and forever one of my favorites, but skip Book of a Thousand Days.

2 stars at the most

April (Aprilius Maximus) says

Oh gosh, I'm going to be obsessed with Shannon Hale now, aren't I?

Beth says

After reading and thoroughly enjoying Goose Girl and Princess Academy, I was excited to see this new young adult novel (another retelling of an obscure fairytale) from Shannon Hale. I was even more excited when I saw that it had been given great reviews so far. Could I possibly enjoy a book from this genre more than Princess Academy? I was anxious to find out.

Well, maybe it was my anticipation that left this book feeling flat. It was readable enough, for sure; the storytelling style (a diary) led to an easy-going, intriguing development of the plot. But for me, there just wasn't enough character development — to the reader, everyone is more or less just who they seem all the way through a book (ironic considering that disguise is a major plot element). I finally yielded that, given the first-person perspective, I wasn't ever going to learn the inner thoughts and motivations of Khan Tegus or Lady Saren — but even still, I found myself wishing for more growth from the characters. Even Dashti, who pours her secret thoughts out to the book (and us as readers), felt rather one-dimensional: yes, she finds strength to do hard things, to take risks — but she credits most of that to her mucker background; she's basically been the loyal, hardy type throughout the bulk of the story.

So. I didn't love the book — but I did like the book. I liked that it was set in an Asian (Mongolian)-like setting; a unique setting that was a fresh surprise in this fairytale (though I didn't particularly care for the overemphasis of the made-up theology). I liked Dashti's moral courage; she is a strong heroine (even if her character development left little to surprise).

Okay, okay; so maybe the one thing I liked unequivocally was the sweet romance and the happily-ever-after at the end! Does that make me shallow?? ;-)

Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

This was so heartwarming and delightful and powerful and just wow. I loved it so much! I can't wait to read more of Shannon Hale's stuff now, knowing how her writing style is. More thoughts to come in a video review (I've decided that as of next month, rather than filming a monthly wrap up at the end, I will do mini batch reviews instead, that way I can go more into depth!)

Rachel Reads Ravenously says

3.5 stars for a cute YA high fantasy. Fans of fairy tale retellings, this is one for you!

Kevin Fanning says

So, so, so good.

As I got towards the end I was planning on giving it 4 stars, but then at the very end it surprised me and it was like the book was about something completely other than what I'd been thinking it was about the whole time. It surprised me, and I love well-executed surprises. Thus 5 stars. Not that there was a surprise ending (I don't like those), just that there was a reframing that totally delighted me. I'll say more about it down below if you want, but I'll put them beneath spoiler alerts to come later.

Anyways. This is a retelling of a Grimm fairly tale. If you've read any of the original Grimm stories, you know they're fairly brutish and cold. Here, the author-- she doesn't reinvent the archetype, she stays very true to the genre, but she reshapes it and totally give it wings. Can I say "breathes new life into it" without sounding totally cheesy? Because that's pretty much what's happening here. For me she made the Grimm style of fairy tale wondrous and fun again, like they must have been when people first started hearing them, hundreds of years before Disney came along and ruined fairy tales for everyone, forever.

I was worried, on the first page, that this book would suffer from the nondescript/slightly awkward "person from foreign land" voice that afflicts a lot of books in this genre, but that was totally not the case. By about page 5 I was totally on board with no worries or qualms.

I don't know what else to say about it, except that I flew through it, and was totally stealing every moment I could to find out what happens next.

possible spoilers below

seriously

OK! It's not just about what happens when you get locked in a tower for 7 years, and what happens after, and the relationship between the servant and the maid. It's about books! And writing! And the power of writing! And even though it ends with a wedding to a prince/khan or whatever, which is so not my scene, it was all enchanting and amazing.

Laura Petto says

Dashti, a mucker maid, is going to be locked up in a tower with her Lady Saren for seven years. Lady Saren refused to marry a man she did not love, so Dashti must prepare for a rigorous and daunting imprisonment. Soon, Dashti finds rats in the flour and mold on the cheese. It becomes a struggle to survive, and Dashti also must deal with Lady Saren's two completely different suitors. Dashti must make a choice, for herself, and for Saren.

In *Book of a Thousand Days*, Shannon Hale brings to life the tale of Maid Maleen. Set in an area much like Mongolia, the Eight Realms, Hale creates up a social system very different than our own. Some realms are ruled by women, which rarely happened at the time. Hale strives to combine reality with magic, and focuses not on the princess, but on the dirty maid. Hale questions arranged marriage and encourages independence and hard work through the determined character of Dashti. Throughout the book, Hale carries a message of hope and fortitude.

Hale succeeded in her message, and inspires girls to be stronger. Although Dashti often had an attitude of servitude, she prevails with her competing attitude of perseverance. Dashti challenges unfair but long used customs of arranged marriage, a lesson for girls. Most adapted fairy tales focus on the princesses, but Dashti is in no way a princess. She knows how to work, and Hale attempts to show a different kind of heroine.

Book of a Thousand Days is a valuable book in today's world of *Clique* and *Gossip Girl* novels. It has a message that supports girls for who they are, while telling an entrancing tale. Despite not having that much action to attract reluctant readers, after a couple chapters, the book picks up. In today's society, any book with a strong girl main character that doesn't do drugs or make bad decisions is extremely valuable.

I'm very excited about this book because Shannon Hale is coming near me in January. The book raises a few questions for me that would be great to ask her.

Shannon Hale has also written five other books; *Austenland*, *River Secrets*, *Princess Academy*, *Enna Burning*, and *The Goose Girl*. She has been heralded as one of the best living fantasy authors of the day. She won a Newbery Honor for *Princess Academy*.

I adored *Book of a Thousand Days* because it was a fantasy with not too much magic. I'm not a huge fantasy person, if only because I like to delve into a character's feelings. Many fantasies don't do that, and focus more on the magic. *Book of a Thousand Days* has characters with realistic, understandable feelings that draw you in to the fairy tale.

Luann says

I enjoyed this a lot - so much so that I DIDN'T finish it last night. I wanted to save it so that I would have something to look forward to reading this afternoon. I found myself thinking about the story several times throughout the day and wondering how it might end. I wasn't disappointed. Another great job by Shannon Hale!

Sara ♥ says

July 30-31, 2009

Ummm... So I started this book at 2:00 am. (Note to self: don't start books at 2:00 am! Are you crazy???) Yeah, I couldn't put it down! I finished at about 7:00. Then my husband woke me up at noon! How rude! Doesn't he realize that reading makes me nocturnal? ;)

Anyway, I started the book, and was like, "Why is this written from the lady's maid's point of view and not from the lady's point of view. Yeah, that becomes very clear within just a few pages. I really loved Dashti—she was such a fascinating character! I loved the world that Shannon Hale created for this book. The acknowledgments at the back say that it's based on Mongolian history (hence the usage of "khan"...), which is just fascinating to me. (I've always wanted to go to Mongolia. I don't know why..... *shrugs*) The belief system in the book was so interesting, and the bad guy was SERIOUSLY FRIGHTENING! EEK! He was freaking me out! But good conquers evil (it IS based on a fairy tale, after all)... as it always will... eventually! ;) Loved it. It was fabulous! 4.5 stars, at least, which rounds up.

Kitkat says

I loved this book so much! But the book is more than a thousand pages so you know. I like the characters and the character development. I loved the love relationship and how brave the protagonist is. She truly is looked upon by the gods! I cannot wait to read more of Shannon Hale books. ♥?♥?♥??

Isamlq says

This particular story has a fairy tale feel to it... and it was incredibly entertaining.

Seven years they were to stay, Lady Saren and her handmaid Dashti. You'd think the first a strong princess, a brave one... another one of those in your face, I'll do as I please versions of princesses. *She's not*. You'd think Dashti, meek and obedient. *She is*. Despite said fact, it's still Dashti who shines in this one because the princess was often times too delicate, too soft, too shy... and just not quite all there.

And just so you know, all those stars are on account of Dashti, who's loyal to a fault, kind and soft hearted. It's Dashti who's a special ability to sing others well. She shines despite having to do things she had no choice but to do. Despite her servitude and the attitude she bore in that position, she's still a strong voice, the strongest in fact.

Because were this all about Saren, I don't think I'd have enjoyed the story one bit. It's Dashti's thoughts, her voice what excited me, what had me laughing and then sometimes cringing. I enjoyed her voice; the change in their circumstance and her views of the same. Starting off as excited, plodding toward being bored out of her mind, then later being utterly frustrated at what her lady would and would not do.

There's the added bonus in how it's told: each entry by Dashti revealed the changes in her thinking and some times even glimpses of her Lady improving. There's also a fantastic and magical feel to it, but it's something that didn't drown everything else out. Her skill was just extra. This wasn't a heavy on the magic; it being mainly about staying resilient, holding true to who you are, what you want and what's right.

3.5/5

Fran says

A nice, easy to read book. It offers some interesting images about the Mongolian steeps. The story is sweet and simple. A few twists here and there make it interesting enough to keep reading and it has a satisfying ending, even if not surprising.
