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The Golem and the Jinni: A Novel (P.S.)

By Helene Wecker

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In *The Golem and the Jinni*, a chance meeting between mythical beings takes readers on a dazzling journey through cultures in turn-of-the-century New York.

Chava is a golem, a creature made of clay, brought to life to by a disgraced rabbi who dabbles in dark Kabbalistic magic and dies at sea on the voyage from Poland. Chava is unmoored and adrift as the ship arrives in New York harbor in 1899.

Ahmad is a jinni, a being of fire born in the ancient Syrian desert, trapped in an old copper flask, and released in New York City, though still not entirely free

Ahmad and Chava become unlikely friends and soul mates with a mystical connection. Marvelous and compulsively readable, Helene Wecker's debut novel *The Golem and the Jinni* weaves strands of Yiddish and Middle Eastern literature, historical fiction and magical fable, into a wondrously inventive and unforgettable tale.

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The Golem and the Jinni: A Novel (P.S.) By Helene Wecker Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, April 2013: Imaginative and meticulously researched, this enchanting debut novel from Helene Wecker is, in reality, an historical fiction. Set primarily in turn-of-the-century Manhattan, it deliberately details the immigrant experience--the wonders and hardships of being in a new country and the discoveries, triumphs, and failures that follow--while bringing the city itself to life with such passion that New York of yore seems like a magical land. Beyond reality, however, *The Golem and the Jinni*, as the title implies, is also a fantastic work of fantasy. The Golem is an insatiably curious clay "woman" that was created to seem human while serving only her husband; the Jinni is a magical "man" whose fascination with mortals has left him nearly stripped of his own nature and forced to live as one. These mythical characters from otherwise clashing cultures not only coexist, but come to rely upon one another in order to exist at all. In turn, their story finds us not only rooting for them to find peace and happiness, but gaining a better understanding of our own human nature in the process. --*Robin A. Rothman*

From [Booklist](#)

First novelist Wecker has blended not only genres but also elements of Jewish and Arab folklore and mythology in this intriguing historical fantasy. What happens when a golem, a Polish woman made of clay, recently marooned in late-nineteenth-century New York, joins forces with jinni, a creature made of fire, accidentally released by a Syrian tinsmith in lower Manhattan? The premise is so fresh that it is anyone's guess, and Wecker does not disappoint as she keeps the surprises coming in this unusual story of the intersection of two magical beings and their joint impact on their parochial immigrant communities. While stolid Chava and fiery Ahmed struggle to cope with their individual challenges and desires, they must together overcome philosophical, spiritual, and physical hurdles to ward off an insidious demonic threat. A mystical and highly original stroll through the sidewalks of New York. --Margaret Flanagan

Review

"Original and fresh...A fascinating blend of historical fiction and Jewish and Arab folklore" (Library Journal)

"Wecker deftly layers their story over those of the people they encounter...[A] spellbinding blend of fantasy and historical fiction." (Publishers Weekly)

"The premise is so fresh...A mystical and highly original stroll through the sidewalks of New York." (Booklist)

"Wecker begins with a juicy premise...and great adventures ensue...She writes skillfully, nicely evoking the layers of alienness that fall upon strangers in a strange land." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Magical thinking comes alive in an enchanting allegory of the immigrant experience as two mythical beings try to make sense of themselves and the world around them." (Family Circle Magazine)

"THE GOLEM AND THE JINNI is recommended to adults who enjoy a good story and have a childlike sense of make-believe." (New York Journal of Books)

“It sounds like the setup for a really strange joke: “A golem and a jinni walk into a bakery in early 19th-century New York....” But this debut novel—part fantastic tale, part historical fiction—is one of the most highly anticipated fiction releases of the spring.” (Christian Science Monitor)

“...the most exciting fantasy debut since Susanna Clarke’s JONATHAN STRANGE & MR. NORELL. Helene Wecker must be a born writer; there is no other way to account for the quality of her prose, as phenomenal as any of the supernatural wonders she delivers in the glorious THE GOLEM AND THE JINNI...” (BookPage)

“In the best instances, you don’t merely read a book—you dive in and happily immerse yourself, forgetting the troubles of daily life for a while. The Golem and the Jinni offers just such an absorbing experience. ” (USA Today)

“One of the joys of the novel is in watching two strangers develop a relationship that, while it’s rooted in their shared magical natures, echoes the way ordinary humans can form bonds starting with a random encounter on a busy street.” (Dallas Morning News)

“An intoxicating fusion of fantasy and historical fiction...Wecker’s storytelling skills dazzle...The book’s magic, filtered through the old-time hustle and bustle of the Lower East Side, lingers long after the final page.” EW Grade: A (Entertainment Weekly)

“The tale is meant to be magical, and it is, but Wecker’s real sleight of pen is recreating Manhattan as it was then. She has a historian’s grasp of detail and a novelist’s flair.” (New York Daily News)

“The author makes you care enough about the humanity of these magical spirits to not only see them through to the end but also to regret that you’ve reached the last page.” (Patricia Cohen, New York Times)

“From its eerie opening pages to its shattering conclusion, The Golem and the Jinni is an astonishing debut novel that sweeps us into a gaslit alternate reality rich enough to get lost in.” (Tom Reiss, author of THE ORIENTALIST and THE BLACK COUNT)

“With a delightful blend of the prosaic and the fanciful, The Golem and the Jinni explores what it means to be human as Chava and Ahmad struggle to live and find love while overcoming the powerful adversary who threatens to destroy them.” (Deborah Harkness, author of A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES)

“A dazzling debut...You’ll be hooked by the vivid interplay of historical fiction, magical fable, and philosophical musing and the colorful supporting cast...Read it in one long, guilt-free gulp (it’s serious literature!).” (San Francisco magazine)

“Wecker maintains her novel’s originality as she orchestrates a satisfying and unpredictable ending. The Golem and the Jinni is a continuous delight — provocative, atmospheric, and superbly paced. ” (Jane Ciabattari, Boston Globe)

“History, magic and religion braid together in old New York’s tenements...The interplay of loyalties and the struggle to assert reason over emotion keep the pages flipping.” (New York Times Book Review)

“An inventive and utterly lovely story...The golem and the jinni...are among my favorite fictional people I spent time with this spring...Wecker is a gifted new voice...I’m glad that her talents have been set free in this novel.” (Chris Bohjalian, Washington Post)

“Masterful...utterly unique and enchanting...Very few debut novels exhibit the charm, assurance, emotional depth and bravura fabulation which the lucky reader will discover in *The Golem and the Jinni*.” (Paul Di Filippo, barnesandnoble.com)

“Inventive, elegantly written and well-constructed...It’s hard to believe this is a first novel. Clearly, otherworldly forces were involved...the story is so complex and intricately woven that it does not lend itself to summary. It would be like pulling threads from a finely crafted garment to describe the whole.” (Minneapolis Star Tribune)

“A beautifully written historical novel with the added spice of the supernatural to make it unputdownable...The novel comes alive with its vivid portrayal of the humor, warmth, and struggle of life in the everyday Lower East Side. The book’s reality is just as captivating as its fantasy.” (Author Magazine)

“Her story is so inventive, so elegantly written, so well-constructed, it is hard to believe that it is her first novel...The book is so good that I wonder if there was some other-worldly power involved in its creation.” (Jewish Daily Forward)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mildred Duncan:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *The Golem and the Jinni: A Novel* (P.S.). Try to face the book *The Golem and the Jinni: A Novel* (P.S.) as your buddy. It means that it can for being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunate to suit your needs. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , we should make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Linda Gaitan:

In this particular era which is the greater individual or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you should do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of many books in the top record in your reading list will be *The Golem and the Jinni: A Novel* (P.S.). This book and that is qualified as *The Hungry Incline* can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking right up and review this book you can get many advantages.

Maureen Daniels:

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to read a reserve. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book which you wanted.

James Sweeney:

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