

The Blue Djinn of Babylon (Children of the Lamp #2)

by P.B. Kerr

Cover Blurb: Yes or No? It's exciting, it's excellent art, and you can't see the character's face. So, yes, I like it.

Characters: John and Philippa continue to be great kid protagonists, leaping into adventure without too much forethought (but they're not rash, either), and meeting danger head-on. They have a great twin-sibling relationship, teasing each other and fighting sometimes like real siblings, but they're not always constantly at one another's throats, which gets annoying with some sibling pairings. Nimrod is still an awesomely amusing uncle, and the villains of the piece are not so much wicked as they are just determined to get what they want. One of the villains was quite obvious from the beginning, while the other took me somewhat by surprise, which was nice. I always like it when I'm surprised by the villain's identity.

The Romance: There isn't any!

Plot: When the sacred Solomon Grimoire - the most powerful book for djinnkind - goes missing, Philippa and John are looped into trying to find it before someone can do permanent damage with it. But what they don't know is that they are headed right into a trap, and when it's sprung, it results in Philippa's abduction. And somehow, the Blue Djinn of Babylon - the deciding power in the djinn world; the one djinn who is above Good and Evil - is involved. I must admit that out of the two I have read so far in the Children of the Lamp series, this one was not my favorite simply because there wasn't really a bad villain. For a story involving deceit and abductions and the like, John's rescue mission was pretty straightforward. Sure, it has the usual perils and challenges to be found in a good adventure novel, but they were all pretty easy and uncomplicated.

Believability: Not applicable.

Writing Style: I still really do like this Author's writing style. It's classy and has a good amount of humor. Perhaps a bit too much light-heartedness - this series could use a bit more dash of seriousness - but it's not too bad. When explaining a lot of concepts, the Author directly addresses the Reader, giving the story a more "historian documenting actual events" feel, which I always enjoy.

Conclusion: It was a little too tidy. The escape went smoothly, and people turn up at the most opportune moment possible, and everyone goes home laughing. Not literally, but that was general ambiance of the end. In a series meant for kids, I can let such a perfect end slide a bit more than I would in other novels, and there is the promise of an interesting sequel. I just wish more had happened in the climax. Despite its few shortcomings, *The Blue Djinn of Babylon* is a great adventure story; just not the best in the series.

Recommended Audience: Girl-and-boy read, any age. Rick Riordan fans would like the concept, as will fans of other like-minded adventure stories.