



The Black Khan

Ausma Zehanat Khan

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Khan has created a rich, well-crafted world that will appeal to readers of S.A. Chakraborty's *The City of Brass* (2017) or Erika Johansen's *The Queen of the Tearling* -- Booklist

The second novel in Ausma Zehanat Khan's powerful epic fantasy quartet, a series that lies "somewhere between N. K. Jemisin and George R. R. Martin" (Saladin Ahmed), in which a powerful band of women must use their magic to defeat an oppressive dark regime.

To fight against the cruel and superstitious patriarchy known as the Talisman, members of the resistance group known as the Companions of Hira have risked their lives in a failed attempt to procure the Bloodprint—a dangerous text that may hold the secret to overthrowing the terrifying regime. Now, with their plans in ashes, the Companions of Hira have scattered, and the lives of two brave women at the center of the plot—Arian and Sinnia—face unprecedented danger.

Yet a spark of hope flickers in the darkness—the Bloodprint has survived. It is hidden in Ashfall, the seat of Rukh, the Black Khan, whose court is ruled by intrigue and conspiracy. Treacherous enemies ruthlessly maneuver for power behind the throne, including the autocratic Grand Vizier; the deadly and secretive Assassin; the Khan's deposed half-brother; and the commander of Ashfall's army, who is also Rukh's oldest friend.

The Companions of Hira must somehow reunite, break through Talisman lines, and infiltrate Ashfall. A master of treachery himself, the Black Khan joins forces with these powerful women to manipulate them for his own ends. But as Ashfall comes under siege, he is forced to make a deadly calculation . . . one that could cause irrevocable damage to the Companions and their fight for freedom.

The Black Khan Details

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Author : Ausma Zehanat Khan

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From Reader Review The Black Khan for online ebook

Rachel says

The Black Khan is the sequel to The Bloodprint, which was released last year. It picks up right where the first book left off and starts with absolutely gut-wrenching action scenes. I spent much of my time reading with my fist between my teeth to keep from gasping or crying or yelling. The plot is dark and twisty and you're never sure who to trust.

The major players from The Bloodprint are here, along with a large cast of new characters. The new characters are well-developed, each with his or her own set of complex motivations. They feel real. That is, perhaps, the best compliment I can give - this feels like a living history. You can see, smell, and hear everything that occurs on the page because Khan breathes life into her world. She carefully crafts this world in such detail that it plays like a film in the reader's mind, but without getting so bogged down that it feels like a dry textbook. At the heart of The Black Khan is the magic of language, The Claim. Khan's own use of language in her storytelling is just as magical.

While The Bloodprint introduces us to Khorasan and a world where women are subjugated by the Talisman, The Black Khan is even darker. Here we get an up close look inside the borders of the Authoritan's lands of North Khorasan, his prisons, and systems of torture. We see the machinations of the courtiers in Rukh's lands of West Khorasan, and get an even more detailed look at the inner workings of Hira. It's dark and violent, but we also meet the resistance groups. The ending promises hope, and that is what will keep me reading. I'm sure there is more death, pain, suffering, destruction, and heartbreak to come, but there is also a light that offers hope, a promise of salvation for the people, and I cannot wait to see what comes next.

This is a planned four book series. I know there are a lot of people who don't like to start series until they are all finished, and I understand that. I do. I hate the wait between finishing a book and the publication of the next installment of the story of a year (or more). I have shed more than one tear over a press release stating a book's publication date has been delayed. But allow me to throw a plug out there for all authors - even if you don't want to start reading the series until all the books are written, buy the ones that are out now and buy the others as they are released. Authors are not guaranteed their subsequent novels will see the light of day, regardless of the plans they have for their fictional world, and publishers make those decisions based on sales of the previous books. If everyone waited until the entire series was published, it would never happen. So, on behalf of one of my favorite authors and, in fact, on behalf of all authors, if you've read a blurb of a book that intrigues you and you are the kind of person who buys books, pick up a copy even if you don't crack the cover until the story is complete. Help ensure we all get to hear the ending.

Veronica says

So begins the wait for the next book. Arian is such a fantastic character.

Fraser Sherman says

This one just didn't click with me. With one exception there's nothing really wrong with it, it just didn't grab

me at all. The story of political intrigue around various factions in a fantasy Middle Eastern setting is perfectly competent, but I wasn't interested.

The exception? Khan's choice of names is dreadful. She gives major characters names I found way too similar (Danya, Dariya, Darius). The army of the One-Eyed Preacher (another name that didn't work) is called the Talisman. An inner-city region is called the Hazing. It's very distracting to just stick words that have clear meanings onto something and redefine them. Even if I'd liked Black Khan, this would have been very annoying.

Feliza Casano says

Power is a major theme of the series and focused on with more intensity in *The Black Khan*. The machinations of power, both magical and political, are a focus of both the Authoritan arc in the first act of the novel and the Ashfall assault arc in the third act. Possessing power isn't what makes a person evil, but rather the desire to gain more power—an idea only emphasized by the key passage of the Claim quoted above. *The Black Khan* wrestles with power in a very different manner than *The Bloodprint*: while the latter focused on how power is stripped away via destruction of knowledge and the decline of literacy, the former examines the pursuit of power and the price paid—both by the seeker and by the seeker's demands.

Read my full review at [Tor.com](http://tor.com).

Andi says

So often the second book in a series falls short of the first, but with The Black Khan, this is most certainly not the case. The Blooodprint was a 5-star read and so is The Black Khan. The writing, the characters, the complexity...it's all there, and it all works. More than anything it's the WOMEN that make this series. They are strong, capable, intelligent, flawed beings who will stop at nothing in their quest for justice. It's just the thing we need right now to inspire the woman in this world to keep fighting. The third installment cannot be published soon enough!!!

Note: I received an ARC of this book from Harper Voyager in exchange for an unbiased review. (Thank you, Harper Voyager!)

Velda Williams says

I was hoping that The Black Khan was the end, but now I have to wait until the next book is available. The saga continues FULL steam ahead.

William Bentrim says

The Black Khan, Book Two of the Khorasan Archives by Ausma Zehanat Khan

The second book in a possible four book series, The Black Khan, again features Arian a strong female protagonist who is facing implacable misogynist foes. Arian's vocal power, called the Claim, is muted by a villain called the Authoritarian. This, second book, shows how Arian and her allies deal with the search for the Bloodprint which for better terms is the bible of the Claim.

Arian is a driven character who is nearly overwhelmed with guilt over the loss of her sister in a Talisman raid when they were children. In this book she meets her sister but the reunion has mixed results. The Silver Mage finds himself defending Arian while sublimating his own desires.

The problem with reading series one book at a time is continuity. The first fifty pages of this book were taxing my memory as to who these people were and what were they trying to do. There are a lot of characters and subplots. After I got into the book, I was able to sort them out but with some difficulty.

The book was interesting but not captivating. Some of the deprivations and behavior could have been pulled from headlines regarding religious zealots across the world. That sadly provided some gritty reality to the story.

Treachery and duplicity seem to be the traits most valued by the bulk of the characters in the book.

Verne says

Great book

Heather says

I don't know if I can express how much I loved this book.

It has earned a place in my favorite's folder, hands down! So, a huge THANK YOU to Avon/Voyager at Harper Collins giveaway, for introducing me to Ms. Khan and her extraordinary writing.

THE BLACK KHAN is an amazingly fractured, yet perfectly crafted continuation in THE KHORASAN ARCHIVES. Usually the second book in a series lags and drags, but this dark beauty absolutely did NOT. Now I'm dying for number three!!!

This book demonstrated the determination of woman who fight and stand strong despite the cruelty in their man-dominated, woman-belittling world. As it was written of Sinnia:

"Her eyes blazed with contemptuous conviction that said there was no man who could defeat her."

And she meant it. Read the book, you'll know what I mean. Sinnia's one tough, loyal woman.

And Arian's own convictions despite the pull of her heart are undeniable:

"Love me for who I am, or your love means nothing at all."

She knows what's right, despite her own desires and strives no matter the heartache to see it to fruition. Love how she doesn't stand aside and let any man (or woman really) shield and protect her. She's a fighter and puts herself out there to defend others. I loved when she rephrased Daniyar's words as SHE protected HIM:

"I will suffer no man to touch you. For you are mine alone."

THE BLACK KHAN is amazing, I loved it!! (if you couldn't tell already).

It's one you don't want to put down and when you have to (even for a little bit) it still buzzes about your head, pulling you back into its world.

This second installment of THE KHOASAN ARCHIVES is full of strength and refusal to give up hope amidst a world devastated by a war of slavery and torture. No matter the characters involved (for a few more join the fray), the pace never slows down. Ms. Kahn simply makes you want to read more of each new face, even ones you're probably not supposed to like.

Wonderful series!!!!!!
