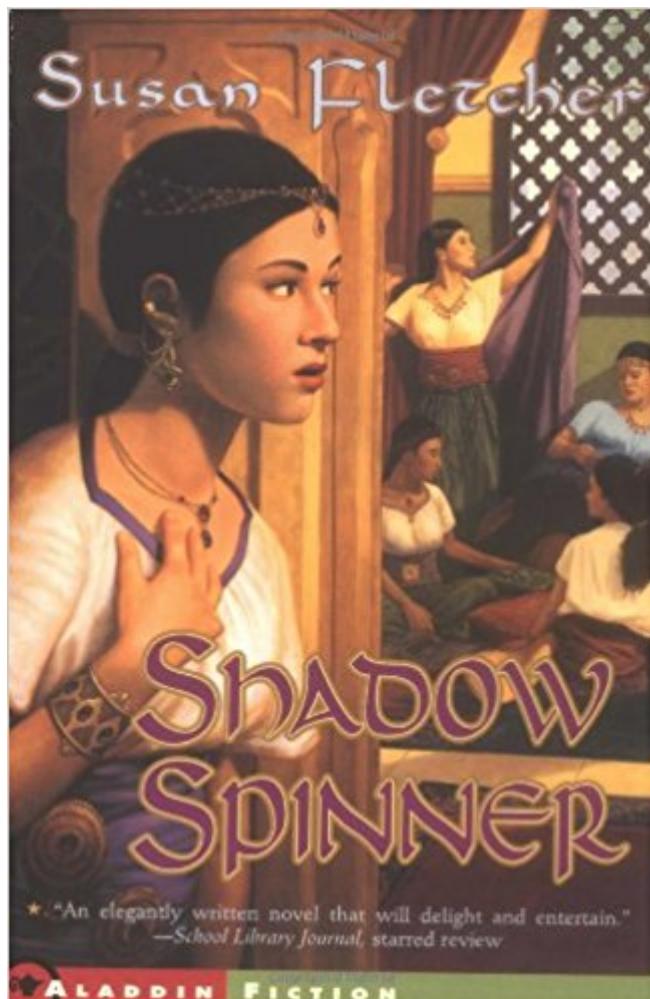


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# Shadow Spinner (A Jean Karl Book)



## **Synopsis**

Every night, Shahrazad begins a story. And every morning, the Sultan lets her live another day -- providing the story is interesting enough to capture his attention. After almost one thousand nights, Shahrazad is running out of tales. And that is how Marjan's story begins.... It falls to Marjan to help Shahrazad find new stories -- ones the Sultan has never heard before. To do that, the girl is forced to undertake a dangerous and forbidden mission: sneak from the harem and travel the city, pulling tales from strangers and bringing them back to Shahrazad. But as she searches the city, a wonderful thing happens. From a quiet spinner of tales, Marjan suddenly becomes the center of a more surprising story than she ever could have imagined.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A young girl, Marjan, rescues the fabled Shahrazad from the Sultan's wrath in this exciting and thought-provoking novel from Fletcher (Flight of the Dragon Kyn, 1993, etc.). With her crippled foot, Marjan never expects to be dragged off to the palace, but that is what happens after a chance meeting with Shahrazadthe storyteller who wins her life each night with cliffhanging stories for the sultan, and who obtains a story from Marjan. Heartbroken at leaving her Aunt Chava and her Uncle Eli, Marjan confronts cruelty within the palace's lush interior, where wives and concubines can be executed at the sultan's whim, and where the Khatun, the sultan's mother, spies on everyone. Dispatched by Shahrazad to find more stories, Marjan sneaks out into the marketplace, where she eventually finds an old storyteller who tells her the end of a story of which the sultan has become

fond. Beaten and imprisoned by the Khatun, Marjan escapes the palace, only to return and tell the sultan an allegory that enables him to realize his love for Shahrazad, and to spare her life. Despite the licenses Fletcher takes with the story of Shahrazad, the novel may entice readers into the pages of Richard Burton's far richer work; they will appreciate the power of storytelling that it may expand the soul of even the most hardened listener. (Fiction. 12-14) -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Susan Fletcher is the acclaimed author of the Dragon Chronicles, composed of Dragon Milk, Flight of the Dragon Kyn, Sign of the Dove, and Ancient, Strange, and Lovely as well as the award-winning Alphabet of Dreams, Shadow Spinner, Walk Across the Sea, and Falcon in the Glass. Ms. Fletcher lives in Wilsonville, Oregon. Visit her at SusanFletcher.com.

Every day, when night comes, the king kills his wife and marries a new one. When he marries Sharhazad, she tells him a story every night, and the king lets her live another day to continue the story. But, as she runs out of stories, Marjan, a young teenage girl with a maimed foot, comes to find stories near and far. She soon discovers herself in her own story. I first got this book after meeting Fletcher. I was not quite sure whether to rate this book two stars or three. But, actually, I'd now rate it three and a half. The story was quite interesting at the beginning, and started to get a little slower. The quality of the writing is a positive five stars, but the story strayed a little from Marjan finding the stories. Though it was quite slow, the story did have a great topic and was well written. I must say the ending was very compelling and mysterious. You felt as if you were there with Marjan. The ending was definitely the best part of the book, which is partially why I rated it higher. I recommend this book for anyone who's looking for a good tale. -Gina Bertaina, age eleven

Suspenseful--author's tips for storytelling at the beginning of each chapter are life-relevant as well as foreshadowing in the story. Keeps kids on the edge of their seat as there are many twists and turns in this plot and yet it all pulls together somehow.

A good read-aloud or just for fun!

I love stories nested in other stories and this book delivers just that. This is a story about the power of stories and in it we find a story about the strength of women, a story about the power of love, a

story about the importance of forgiveness... My daughter and I read this book out loud together as part of her school day and we loved every minute of it.

My 12-year-old rates this as, "One good book!" We both were captivated by the story and could hardly wait to read the next chapter.

Perfect for my son's class and he loved the story

This book will have you on the edge of your seat waiting to see what becomes of Sharazad's slaves and helpers or if there is going to be another assassination.

This fictional novel based on Scheherazade is a quick and light read. The writing style is basic and the characters are predictable. This book would be best enjoyed listening to a taped recording with your family.

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