

Rebel of the Sands

Alwyn Hamilton

Reviewed by: Sireen Mohammed, 14

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Amani Al'Hiza cannot stand to stay in the small, poor, overcrowded city of Dustwalk where she has spent the last 16 gruesome years of her life. The city doesn't want her either; her own mother was hanged for giving birth to her and she is forced to live with her aunt who can't seem to care less for her and an uncle who seems to care far too much for her. It's why she spends much of her time plotting and planning a way to escape to Izman, the grand capital of Miraji. One day, she finds herself in Deadshot (one of the most dangerous places to be) dressed as a boy, shooting to win enough money to escape. Only, the night turns wrong when a rebel to the sultan of Miraji is found and it's everyone for themselves trying to run before they are killed. Amani finds herself running from the shooting pit with a foreign man she barely trusts, and even less knows.

Amani runs and leaves the foreigner to find his own way and hopes that that's the end of that. She's proven wrong when the next day, the sultan's army comes in search of the traitor who Amani ran away with last night, making her his accomplice. The foreigner, luckily, manages to find Amani and run off with her before the soldiers can grab hold and execute her. Amani's surprised the foreigner recognizes her dressed as a girl and even more surprised that he's taking her with her. She soon finds out that there's much more to him than a strange man with a gun.

Amani has gotten her wish; after years of trying she has finally escaped the clutches of Dustwalk, but at what price? Amani quickly realizes she's been too tangled in this man's business to leave behind. I loved reading this tale of a young woman fighting for her worth and a cause she had no idea she would ever find herself behind. I highly recommend reading this book for ages 12 and up.

Recommended Titles:

Traitor to the Throne, Alywn Hamilton

City of Bones, Cassandra Clare

Ghosts of the Shadow Market, Cassandra Clare