

Traitor to the Throne

Alwyn Hamilton

Reviewed by: Sireen Mohammed, 14

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In this thrilling sequel to *Rebel of the Sands*, desert girl Amani continues her journey to overthrow the oppressive government that the Sultan so comfortably sits at the head of. Amani wakes up at the beginning of the book, for the first time, recovering from a fatal lethal wound from a battle with the Sultan's soldiers. She notices straightaway that Jin, one of the Sultan's sons working to bring him down and the man she loves, is gone and had left as soon as he knew she was in trouble. So obviously, when he returns without caring to explain his absence, it causes tension between the two of them – one that they have no time to address when the Sultan captures Amani and takes her back to his palace.

Amani's taken prisoner by the Sultan and she expects to be tortured for information but is surprised when she's treated like a guest instead. Amani is quick to realize that if she's not being tortured, the Sultan needs something from her; she just has yet to figure out what that is. Her guess is proven right when she wakes up with iron under her skin, the only thing that renders her powers useless, and bronze engraved with her true name, metal that forces her to obey any and all of the Sultan's commands. As she gets closer to the Sultan, she finds something that worries her: he makes sense, and Amani begins to worry that the Rebellion is wrong to want to dethrone him.

Amani must quickly figure out where her loyalties lie before more people she cares about can lose their lives to power in the wrong hands. The *Rebel of the Sands* series is definitely one of my favorites to read and the second book the *Traitor to the Throne* lives up to the standards set by the first book. I highly recommend reading this book and I recommend it for children ages 12 and up.

Recommended Titles:

Rebel of the Sands, Alwyn Hamilton

These Rebel Waves, Sara Raasch

The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins