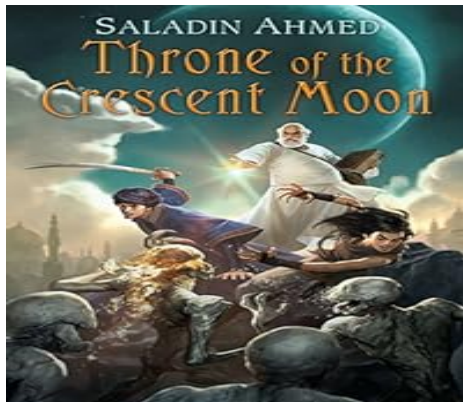


Throne of the Crescent Moon (The Crescent Moon Kingdoms, #1) By Saladin Ahmed The tale focuses on several different viewpoints but most notably on an old ghul hunter (one of the last of his kind in the area) named Adoulla who is unusually loving and faithful towards his capitol city but sometimes poor at expressing his feelings towards the people he cares about. WRITING STYLE/PROSE/WORD FLOW: B plus; WORLD FOCUSES: B plus; CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: B to B plus; STORY/PLOTTING: B; WHEN READ: March to April 2012 (revised review end of June 2012); OVERALL GRADE: B plus. I'm still waiting for the anticlimatic tale in which the heroes sneak under and come out and all get killed or find out that the slaves/servants have revolted and already destroyed the evil enemy. It was fine even if not really great.



The Crescent Moon Kingdoms home to djenn and ghuls holy warriors and heretics are at the boiling point of a power struggle between the iron-fisted Khalif and the mysterious master thief known as the Falcon Prince. It is up to a handful of heroes to learn the truth behind these killings: Doctor Adoulla Makhslood “the last real ghul hunter in the great city of Dhamsawaat” just wants a quiet cup of tea. When they learn that the murders and the Falcon Prince’s brewing revolution are connected the companions must race against time—and struggle against their own misgivings—to save the life of a vicious despot. His short stories have been nominated for the Nebula and Campbell awards and have appeared in Years Best Fantasy and numerous other magazines anthologies and podcasts as well as being translated into five foreign languages. His short stories have been nominated for the Nebula and Campbell awards and have appeared in Year's Best Fantasy and numerous other magazines anthologies and podcasts as well as being translated into five foreign languages. The story follows the paths of three unlikely characters: Adoulla Makhslood an aging disgruntled mage and the last ghul hunter left in the city who's still hunting ghuls; Raseed bas Raseed the mage's young pious protege who unfortunately has no magic of his own but has been blessed with great strength; and Zamia Badawi a young gifted (but self-righteous) shapeshifter from a desert tribe who no longer has a home. 9780756407117 I found numerous things to like in this debut fantasy epic and few to complain about making it one of my top debuts of 2012 even if I only got to it in 2013. I have read a few other recent epics that drink from the same fountain (Dreamblood by N K Jemisin; The Demon Cycle by Peter V Brett; Psalms of Isaak by Ken Scholes) but Saladin Ahmed strikes me as the most authentic voice the view of the insider who gets the deep spirituality of the culture and sees beyond the murderous fanatic stereotype. - the magic system : the story relies heavily on the supernatural and on different branches of arcane study: alchemy shamanism (animal spirits) demonic incantations balanced by the power of the Scripture potions explosive powders enchanted blades. I particularly liked the revamped zombies in the story: not the shuffling ragged Braiiinz! obsessed Hollywood staple but fast and deadly constructs of sand water blood skin or bones of the dead each with special powers and vulnerabilities. Doctor Adoulla Makhslood is the last authentic Ghul hunter in the great metropolis of Dhamsawaat (think Baghdad at the time of Haroun Al-Rashid) now an overweight elderly gentleman fond of sticky sweets and long conversations over a cup of cardammom tea. I have a clear picture of him in my mind:His two best friends a couple of alchemists / healers are similarly interested in retirement to greener pastures but they stay on for a last fight the most dangerous of their whole career. Things I believe could have been handled better:- The

Falcon Prince: he is an interesting character but I felt he was underdeveloped he needed at least a couple of more chapters of backstory. Likewise for the Khalif and his court - The main adversary: remains a mystery for most of the novel and this is a should be (the unknown is often more terrifying than what could be clearly observed) but ultimately I felt I knew more about his sidekick than about the evil mastermind that threatens the whole human race. I think that was the problem: in this case the setting was the main focus of the story--to the point where the characters and plot were used to show off the setting rather than vice versa. Dhamsawaat seems like a very nice city and it was nice to see all the different people who lived there--but for me the scenery and minor characters were as interesting as the protagonists which was a problem. He and his assistant--a fanatical 17-year-old dervish named Raseed--are asked by Adoulla's old flame (a middle-aged brothel owner named Miri) to investigate the horrific murders of her niece and nephew-in-law. With Miri's help this larger team determines the source of the threat and must join forces with a flamboyant and charismatic bandit king called The Falcon Prince to save the city from destruction. I mean I could tell you that Adoulla's fat (it's mentioned far more often than his ghul-hunting is) or that Raseed's a really good fighter but you don't really get a whole lot more development than that. There was one scene at the end of the book that really intrigued me--when Adoulla decides to keep quiet about The Falcon Prince drinking the Heir's blood--but that was one of the few surprises in the book for me. This would not have been an issue were the plot itself a little richer but as it was I would have liked earlier mentions of the villain an earlier introduction for Litaz and Dawoud more interactions with The Falcon Prince more evidence of the Khalif's cruelty. Ahmed chose to translate literally a lot of (what I assume are) traditional Arabic expressions: Litaz for example is properly called Litaz Daughter-of-Likami whereas Raseed is Raseed-only-Raseed. I was just about to say that I would have preferred he use the proper Arabic word but apparently the Arabic word for daughter of is bint which doesn't really fly in English. There is the difference that everyone's (generically) Muslim--and there's a lot more religion in this book than there is in the average fantasy novel although it's so integrated with the tapestry of life that it doesn't come off as either critical or preachy. And when you take that away you're left with a lot of traditional high-fantasy ingredients: a prologue with someone being tortured in a dungeon; a team of plucky heroes with various strengths and backgrounds; corrupt city guardsmen; stoic desert tribespeople; an Ancient Evil; shambling undead; an evil king and his sheltered good-hearted young son; and a lot of starving commoners. To me the most interesting parts of the story were the hints we got of what came before it--the adventures Adoulla and his friends had when they were younger how Litaz left her family how she and Dawoud got together how they lost their son. " One of the more interesting and unique things about Adoulla as a main character is that he is over sixty years old—and isn't part of a culture where such longevity is common. Prone seeing only surface value Raseed is quick to judge and does not discriminate between friend and foe in his quest to bring justice with intentions mattering very little in his logic. The prose flows ever on and on While the premise and characters were definitely strong points of Throne of the Crescent Moon the true strength of the novel lies in Ahmed's ability to craft a story. My one qualm with his writing comes not from any fault on the author's end but rather from my own personal biases; I am a comma junkie and many of Ahmed's sentences give me pause. Are you all on crack? Is the author paying you all off? Only once in my life have I ever not been able to finish a book (and that was in 2008 with Kate Elliott's Spirit Gate). The worst part is that at only a short 288 pages in length it still took me a week to get halfway because I literally kept falling asleep - and I think if a book hasn't gotten any good by halfway you know it's time to throw in the towel. Where did it go wrong? Great title great cover art and foremost for me a great premise - I was really looking forward to some Middle Eastern flavour after a lifetime of medieval-centric stories. All I really got to learn was that there was a crowded city a desert an impressive palace a square with cool statues and a green door - that's about as far as Ahmed's prodigious lack of anything descriptive gets the reader. Every word that comes out of Adoulla's mouth is a complaint about his age weariness and likely impending death (other than the times he is making unexpected unjustified wise cracks/wild bursts of outrage). Exactly the same situation with Raseed and Zamia except old

and weary was replaced with overly-pious/confused about liking vagina and woe my family is dead/I am constantly insulted respectively. It was like each character had one single simple thing that defined them and Ahmed chose to harp on about this for the entire story rather than actually letting the characters you know develop and/or express at least one other facet of their personality. The worst example of this is the villain Mouw Awa who seems to have Tourette's and within thirty seconds manages to divulge his entire identity nature and plan to the protagonists. The story just gets more eye-roll-worthy when they discover the identities of their enemies and it turns all anti-life anti-existence so dark and foul and evil that it would make Baby Jesus roll over and vomit. Then there was the bakgam game between two minor characters (an old couple) with some details of it all and one of the players spitting right near the feet of Raseed and Adoulla. Didjya expect me to give it two stars? 9780756407117 After promising Saladin that I'll be reviewing the book within a week of its coming out I stand abashed that it took me this long to get to it. Probably the reason was that in spite of all the acclaim I had heard heaped on it I knew in my heart that 'Throne of the Crescent Moon' is still an out and out 'Sword And Sorcery' fantasy genre novel and I had made a conscious decision to stay away from genre novels. It is because authors like Saladin can bring alive characters and situations and bathe them in all the fantastic magic imaginable and still make them all appear so real and so part of our world. The world-weariness of the fat old codger with the big belly Doctor Adoulla Makhslood and the internal conflicts of the scrawny zealot Raseed and the other quirks of every character speaks directly to us and the characters come alive in vivid detail especially since the author takes care to not spare us the coarser details as well. Ahmed spends more than three-quarters of the book developing his characters making us inhabiting the heads of various characters as they travel about the city of Dhamsawaat using these quiet spaces to put in vast details about the inner life of these characters and the outer complexity of the fictional city and its teeming complex life. The characters are developed and primed for a series and the world-building is detailed and complete but the sense of anticipation or of denouement that would draw one back to a series or make one wait eagerly for the next edition is sadly lacking. Maybe the world-weariness and resignation of Adoulla is also the premise of the book - To remind us that no matter what you achieve life still goes on with all the challenges still there undiminished and after the night celebrating your greatest achievement the next day again dawns and you have to trudge on. If you are a fantasy fan who has been mourning the superficiality that permeates the genre and is on the lookout for a reflective and quiet but rich and satisfying read this might be worth picking up. Don't let the religious overtones and the constant allusions to God and the 'Avenging Angel' put you off too much those are just a part of the magic world the characters inhabit and the book is not trying to convey any religious messages. serve as spells in Ahmed's world and all are weapons of God in a drawn out struggle against the forces of evil which might reach an epic conclusion in some future book in the series. This adds to the rich Arabian atmosphere and the originality with which a glorious Muslim kingdom is painted along with the language the addresses and the mannerisms will all provide for an authentic 12th Century Arabian Nights like experience. For a debut author Saladin Ahmed shows exceptional mastery of his craft and his book is unlikely to disappoint any serious reader who is looking for a bit more than a few swords slashing and spells misfiring. If nothing else this book was a tuition class in plot and character development by Ahmed maybe as a practical example to aid the people he helps through his Novel Critiques ad commentaries. The main characters are a ghul hunter (one who searches out and destroys magically summoned demons) a holy warrior dervish who has almost supernatural skill with his sword and a young nomad girl who has the coolest shape-shifting power you've ever seen: How about you stop harping on about how nasty these guys are and actually just show us and get on with the story, I just put it all in the basket with guys that brag about how big their penises are. I will not be moving on and pretending it never happened. 9780756407117 This debut novel inspired by "One Thousand and One Nights" is a fantasy setting which is refreshingly in a non Anglo-French environment. He has a few close people to him who all end up appearing in his life in different roles during the unfolding of this tale, As Adoulla's ghul hunting continues he eventually discovers something larger and more sinister (not much of a

surprise in a fantasy tale.

Raseed. I would say the love interest of Raseed was the weakest supporting character as he was very much the archetype: I have listed more extensive details about the novel in the spoiler section below, Unlike another novel I read recently this series leaves enough things open or kept mysterious enough for me to want to pick up the next book. \*\* SPOILERS \*\*THE GOOD(1)I like how the people passing by on the crowded streets have character and flavor.

Were nice compliments to the mix. Interesting how Adoulla would look at them and wonder what married life could have been like for him. (4) The introspection of many of the viewpoint characters worked most of the time rather than appeared just as padding, (5) Nice decipherings of texts that actually led to relevant knowledge: (6) Good fight with the little shadow creature (Mouw Awa) that attacked them midstory in Adoulla's home and Zamia almost dying and milking that scene. (7) The ghuls were worthy opponents rather than simple pushovers especially at the end, (8) Interesting how the Falcon Prince gets the throne but you can already see he may have mental issues holding it per the magic within the physical throne: (9) The details of the city made it feel real and exotic as I mentioned above, (10) The argumentative relationship between Adoulla and his love interest.

Seemed overly rude and angry to everybody and everybody else seemed unusually patient with her, Probably a pet peeve of mine the more I think about it: (2) The old take the secret tunnel to the palace that nobody there seems to know about is overused in fantasy and seemed like a bit of a cop out. For new fantasy readers it's fine I've just read it so many times: I think it would have been more interesting if Adoulla had used magic to sneak in or bargained with a djinn at great expense to get in or some other variation. In the midst of this brewing rebellion a series of brutal supernatural murders strikes at the heart of the Kingdoms: Three score and more years old he has grown weary of hunting monsters and saving lives and is more than ready to retire from his dangerous and demanding vocation, But when an old flame's family is murdered Adoulla is drawn back to the hunter's path. Raseed bas Raseed Adoulla's young assistant is a hidebound holy warrior whose prowess is matched only by his piety, But even as Raseed's sword is tested by ghuls and manjackals his soul is tested when he and Adoulla cross paths with the tribeswoman Zamia. Zamia Badawi Protector of the Band has been gifted with the near-mythical power of the lion-shape but shunned by her people for daring to take up a man's title, Until she learns that Adoulla and his allies also hunt her father's killer: In so doing they discover a plot for the Throne of the Crescent Moon that threatens to turn Dhamsawaat and the world itself into a blood-soaked ruin: Throne of the Crescent Moon (The Crescent Moon Kingdoms #1)Saladin Ahmed was born in Detroit and raised in a working class Arab American enclave in Dearborn MI, He is represented by Jennifer Jackson of the Donald Maass Literary Agency, Saladin Ahmed was born in Detroit and raised in a working class Arab American enclave in Dearborn MI. He is represented by Jennifer Jackson of the Donald Maass Literary Agency, {site\_link} 3½ starsA sword & sorcery fantasy set against an Arabian Nights backdrop: These three are drawn together by circumstance--a powerful sorcerer is creating powerful ghuls and letting them loose to slaughter in the desert: For Adoulla and Raseed it's their duty to rid the land of evil but for Zamia the journey is one of vengeance and self-sacrifice, There's also a royal conspiracy plot running in the background, There's adventure tension humor awkward first love retirement jokes fights over customs and ideologies and a good amount of peril: Brett's The Warded Man but better executed--better plotted and better written overall: As the first of the trilogy this book shows a glimpse of what the rest of the trilogy could be and there's a lot of potential here, On the plus side:- the setting: rich and original vibrant and convincing, The source material is easily identified from the Arabian Nights and numerous other myths and legends of the muslim culture. There is actually one character that could be described as a religious zealot (Raseed) but most of his development will be about overcoming his limitations, - the characters : A fine tuned balance between the world weary older crusaders against the forces of darkness and the youthfull energy

and passion of their apprentices. Raseed and Zamia are the two youths with more guts than brains but they are both good kids and real useful in a tight spot, The possibility of romance (both the spring and the october flavor) adds a touch of spice (humor tenderness misunderstandings) to the proceedings: - the prose : impressive for a debut novel: good dialogue very fast action sequences tight descriptions emotional intensity: Speaking of which I'm getting a little tired of this plot device and starting to prefer a more limited capacity for destruction: - the naming conventions : either you create whole new words or you stick to the accepted spelling of familiar ones: Changing just one letter in a name or a noun feels like lazy worldbuilding for me: ghuls instead of ghouls Adullah instead of Abdoullah and so on, Overall Throne of the Crescent Moon was a fast paced adventure with well drawn characters and a very interesting setting: The novel works very well as a standalone but I hope the author will return to the city of Dhamsawaat or to the neighborings kingdoms with a future installment. 9780756407117 I wanted to read this book from the second I heard about it because several bloggers I respected kept raving about how wonderful it was, It seemed like it would be a nice change--a medieval fantasy in which the pseudo-Middle-Eastern setting was the main focus of the story not just an exotic sidetrack. The main protagonist (there are five or six depending on how you count) is an aging ghul-hunter named Adoulla Makhslood who's getting too old for this crap: Turns out they've been murdered by something horrible--an Ancient Evil connected somehow to some unusually powerful ghuls that attack Adoulla and Raseed in the desert. Fortunately they are saved by a desert-dwelling shapeshifter named Zamia who reveals that the Ancient Evil also slaughtered her entire tribe, The three return to town and that night the Ancient Evil destroys Adoulla's beloved townhouse and nearly kills Zamia, The three must go for help to Adoulla's old friends an alchemist named Litaz and her magic-wielding husband Dawoud. Sounds cool right? And most of this isn't on the jacket copy. (In fact as I look at the jacket copy now I think it's a little deceptive: ) The problem is that the descriptions I've just given are the characters, Raseed is the only one to experience real personal growth and it's along fairly predictable lines, Most of the characters' other interactions were fairly mechanical: The book was less than 300 pages long with a blank page before every chapter: I'm not sure what the wordcount is but I would guess it was in the 70-80k range--right on target for a YA novel but a little thin for one aimed at adults. Since my main gripe with the book is its underdevelopment I think I would have enjoyed it more with a few more threads in the tapestry. This was interesting the first time but intrusive after that. Still characters are constantly exchanging cheek-kisses and giving God's peace and these things don't really need description or explanation after the first time either, And once you take out these superficial cultural markers the story's really a fairly standard medieval fantasy. Anyway I know a lot of people really liked this one and I feel kind of bad for tearing it apart but. I guess I had really high expectations and I always get annoyed when a book I'm looking forward to is disappointing: If you're interested in this one you may well feel a totally different way about it than I did, Imagine The Arabian Nights starring Iroh of Avatar: The Last Airbender and you'll have a sense of what Saladin Ahmed's debut novel is like, Throne of the Crescent Moon is one of the strongest debut novels I've read and will likely be a serious contender in any "Best Debut" list for this year: Throne of the Crescent Moon follows the story of Doctor Adoulla Makhslood the last of the true ghul hunters in the great city of Dhamsawaat: On the verge of retiring Adoulla is forced away from his hopes and plans when he and his assistant learn of a series of grisly murders and rumors of a sinister conspiracy. Adoulla's investigations lead him outside the city with his assistant Raseed bas Raseed a young member of an order of holy warriors. There they are set upon and nearly overwhelmed by a band of powerful ghuls, They only survive the encounter due to the aid of a young woman able to take the form of a lioness Zamia Badawai whose entire tribe was slaughtered by the ghuls, Adoulla takes Zamia under his wing and together the three of them must unravel the mystery surrounding the Throne of the Crescent Moon Kingdoms before it's too late: Engaging CharactersAs previously stated the main character Doctor Adoulla Makhslood initially reminded me of Iroh from the 2005-2008 television series Avatar: The Last Airbender. As the story progressed I had to revise my thoughts on the character to "Iroh if Avatar: The Last Airbender had been a more adult show: He is a very very

human character subject to the aches and pains of extensive experience and the wear and tear of the years: Adoulla's assistant Raseed is a sixteen-year-old boy who is part of an order of holy warriors: He is prideful and many of Adoulla's quirks go against his training of absolute purity, Things become very entertaining once Zamia joins the group since is an inherent attraction between them—as young people are prone to have, Zamia Badawai the young woman able to take the form of a lioness is not the exiled beautiful princess popularized by adapted fairy tales and children's movies, In fact her plain features are emphasized by the author as well as used as a source of conflict within her character, Also the tension between Zamia and Raseed is highly entertaining to read as it takes on a variety of forms. The atmosphere of the novel lends and adapts itself to every scene evolving as the story develops: Ahmed's writing also finds that balance between giving the reader too much information and leaving too much to the reader's imagination something that I distinctly enjoy: Combine these elements with his character work and Ahmed's debut novel becomes a masterful work of worldbuilding and storytelling, However in every case the sentences were grammatically correct either with or without commas, Once I got used to Ahmed's style of writing it became a moot point—especially once the story really started picking up steam. Just a word of warning to any fellow comma junkies out there, A mesmerizing world In Throne of the Crescent Moon Ahmed crafts a detailed world with a sense of history, The lands of the Crescent Moon Kingdoms are part of a deeply immersive world with believable history characters and places: The map provided in the novel complements the novel in many ways both stylistically and informationally, Taken together Throne of Crescent Moon creates a fantastic world that I look forward to visiting again and again: Why should you read this book? As debut novels go this might well be the strongest I have read to date: Saladin Ahmed has created a fantastic debut novel with a gorgeous world and fantastic characters: But the main reason you should read this novel is Ahmed's sheer capacity for storytelling, Available on February 7 Throne of the Crescent Moon is a novel any fantasy enthusiast should not miss, 9780756407117 I cannot fathom how respected reviewers that I follow could give this anything more than two stars let alone herald it as the years best debut release: Throne of the Crescent Moon has now brought that tally up to two. Firstly there is absolute zilch world building and character development, The three main characters are about as three dimensional as a Hallmark greet card the ones with the annoying repetitive jingle every time you open them: This is great at the beginning for setting up a protagonist that doesn't follow the usual tropes but by page fifteen it's getting old. Every time Raseed opened his mouth all I heard was 'I got a- I got a- I got a pocket got a pocket full of sunshine, 'And can anyone honestly say what any of the characters looked like other than Zamia as a lion: Unless I missed it as I was drooling and my head was lolling backwards this book is like reading from the perspective of a blind person: As if any of this wasn't bad enough the plot itself is slow-moving predictable unimaginative incredibly lame and downright boring. Ahmed shows absolutely no skill or subtlety in moving the story along instead hand delivering information to the characters on a silver platter, He plucks an object out of his skirts (sometimes not even that) and mutters a seemingly random one line of scripture and the enemy just literally falls over and dies, Well Saladin right?) and along the way picks up some more allies. It's a good tale but the best part is the Arabian flavor simply because I hardly see it well done: Magic is on the uncommon to rare side and is usually temporarily or permanently taxing. The division between the nobility/royalty and the commoners was spot on: I hate it when those debut fantasy novels have the nobility hanging out with the commoners and befriending them just because they're super nice people: Adoulla's flawed love relationship was more appealing than the one of his assistant like getting angry at the main character for blocking foot traffic, Strangely they didn't react and I suppose that's life in the big desert city: (2) The husband of Latif has a POV which was nice especially as his magic aged him which put him decades ahead of his wife: A lot of the supporting and minor characters had their own personalities like the tea shop owner (Yehyeh) who liked to insult Adoulla's ugliness but was really a good friend, His old adventuring friends Dawoud and Latif (now retired) Miri was well done. Even when they argued you could read the subtext of caring emotions and Miri's attempts to make Adoulla swing around when she said was going to marry

another man, (11) Nice use of religious values without it dominating the story. The kid prince telling the Falcon Prince that he was his hero, It felt like a hit or miss so I can't put it as either bad or good, But now that I have just finished reading it I have to admit that I am reminded of why I love the fantasy genre above all others. There is a level of perfection in Ahmed's style and narration that you can feel in every page, A tight well polished reserve in the choice of words and in the slow construction of the plot: The plot is in reality not of central importance in the book, The final climax can only be called anti-climactic in its lack of devoted pages as well as the lack of action not to mention the lack of any real feeling of conclusion: There is no explanation provided for the existence of the evil they are battling or for the reason of its existence, I do not want to go into plot details here but the fact that this is the first in the series should not be an excuse for so little to happen in the book. But then as Ahmed makes clear in the last musings of Adoulla this book was perhaps not intended to be an epic with world-changing climaxes and thundering sky-splitting battles: In fact these religious allusions help in adding texture and credibility to the deeply arabic experience that Ahmed is trying to create. This series and the world that Ahmed has created definitely has the potential to develop into something amazing: The groundwork has been laid in this first book and here is hoping that Saladin Ahmed manages to build a grand castle on it soon, 9780756407117 Throne of the Crescent Moon is an adult fantasy set in an alternate Middle East during the golden age of the Caliphate. It richly evokes the world of Ali Baba Sinbad and Scheherazade. I love the way Saladin Ahmed creates his story lovingly portraying his characters and his settings bringing them all to vivid life. This is another very fast read because the story moves along at a good clip, Even this powerful group will have trouble against the evil force that is rising to take the Khalif's throne however: Since this is an adult fantasy there is some adult content and some extremely creepy and dark villainy but nothing that would bother most readers of YA fantasies, If you're ready for a fresh and different sort of fantasy check it out! 9780756407117 I love picking up a fantasy novel and reading something I haven't been exposed to before, With this book that pleasure came from the fact that the world had some distinctly Arabian worldbuilding and cosmology: It's more than merely a different flavor to the same old story. It's not like the author just mad-libbed out the generic European wizards and goblins and replaced them with Fakirs and Djinn, It's a different sort of world complete with unfamiliar cultural values and superstitions, In terms of the overall story and character (Which is the meat of the matter) this one hovers somewhere between a four and a five. But the fact that it's the author's Debut novel combined with the fresh Worldbuilding nudge it up into the five star range with me, I'll be interested to see what Saladin comes up with next[1]

I had the same reaction. Suffice to say I didn't like the book. Too often heroes get hurt and recover too fast. Heh. Dare to dream. Heh.(3) OTHER COMMENTARY1. Some have commented that the finale felt weak but I disagree. She lives only to avenge her father's death. Until she meets Raseed. THRONE OF THE CRESCENT MOON is his first novel. Saladin lives near Detroit with his wife and twin children. THRONE OF THE CRESCENT MOON is his first novel. Saladin lives near Detroit with his wife and twin children. This is a fun story and I enjoyed it quite a bit. The set-up reminds me somewhat of Peter V. PLOT SPOILERS BELOW The concept is pretty cool. The prose style was my last big issue. I think I might have enjoyed that book more. I don't know. 9780756407117 <http://www.rantingdragon.com/throne-o>. That's really about it on the pros list. And I'm sorry but what the hell is Adoulla's magic. And then he just feels a little tired afterwards. What a freaking cop out. This is an exception. Puke. He was the mostly steady friend who calmed Adoulla down.(3) The way the adults interacted with Adoulla was great. THE BAD(1) As already mentioned the girl Zamia I suppose. 2. Not sure how I feel about that one. 9780756407117 Well jeez I wrote the thing. Unfortunately this strength of the book is also its weakness. The invocations from the Holy Book etc. 9780756407117.