FROM: THE LIBRARY OF
FORGOTTEN DREAMS
The Citadel of Mirrors
Mariashtra
India

Dear Reader,

From bustling cities like Mumbai to the mountainous landscapes of the North and the ornate castles and forts of Rajasthan, my homeland of India is a country that engrosses the senses. The rich and ancient history of India inspired the world of Dream Hunters. From the Citadel of Mirrors to the white stone Palace of Ratnagar and the ornate Library of Forgotten Dreams.

Vibrant and intense, India is a land of many contrasts. The gap between rich and poor is something I wanted to reflect in my novel, and the life of poor street orphans with more kindness and humanity in them than the aristocrats and wealthy traders highlights the importance of friendship and found family.

The use of dreams as magical ingredients came from the idea that dreams, like thoughts, exist for only moments but can be deeply powerful. What if we could capture them and mix them together to create new, custom dreams to heal and inspire?

I believe each and every child should be able to dream of a better life and a bright future and wanted my novel to demonstrate the impact of social justice and kindness on individuals and society as a whole. Mimi Malou, the privileged daughter of the Chief Librarian, realises the dreams made in the citadel should be free to those who have lost all hope of dreaming of a better future, but can she convince an aunt whose focus is on the profitability of dreamcraft?

The power of friendship is at the core of my novel. Mimi wants to do the right thing but carries the stain of her parents' apparent treachery. As she begins to realise all is not as it seems, she must learn to trust her friends. Rafi – feisty, fearless and always hungry, Kantar – smooth-talking and the man with the plan, Zaini – sharp-witted and deeply thoughtful with some secrets up her sleeve. I hope children reading the novel will find something they connect with in one or more of this band of friends who use their combined strengths to solve problems the adults cannot fix.

Thank you for reading Dream Hunters, and as Mimi would say if you were to wish her goodbye -

May you have luminous thoughts, and may your dreams shine ever brightly.

With kind regards,

Nazima Pathan

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