When Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, the two prepare for a very long and dark imprisonment.

As food runs low and the days go from broiling hot to freezing cold, it is all Dashti can do to keep them fed and comfortable. But the arrival outside the tower of Saren's two suitors—one welcome, and the other decidedly less so—brings both hope and great danger, and Dashti must make the desperate choices of a girl whose life is worth more than she knows.

With Shannon Hale's lyrical language, this forgotten but classic fairy tale from the Brothers Grimm is reimagined and reset on the central Asian steppes; it is a completely unique retelling filled with adventure and romance, drama and disguise.

**Personal Review: Book of a Thousand Days by Shannon Hale**

In this retelling of a little-known, Brothers Grimm fairy tale set on the Eurasian steppes, Lady Saren and her maid Dashti are imprisoned in a tower for seven years due to Lady Saren's refusal to marry a man she does not love. Though food is plentiful and the amount of supplies in the tower seems infinite, life there is not comfortable. Visits from suitors and freezing nights are all recorded in Dashti's journal, her "book of a thousand days."

This novel by Shannon Hale, a Newbery Honor-winning author, is beautifully written, with passages that sometimes read like poetry. But you can also practically hear the voice of Dashti, as if she were talking directly to you. Book of a Thousand Days never gets boring, and no one will be able to pry this book from your hands once you get it.

--Reviewed by Veronica L. Hernandez

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