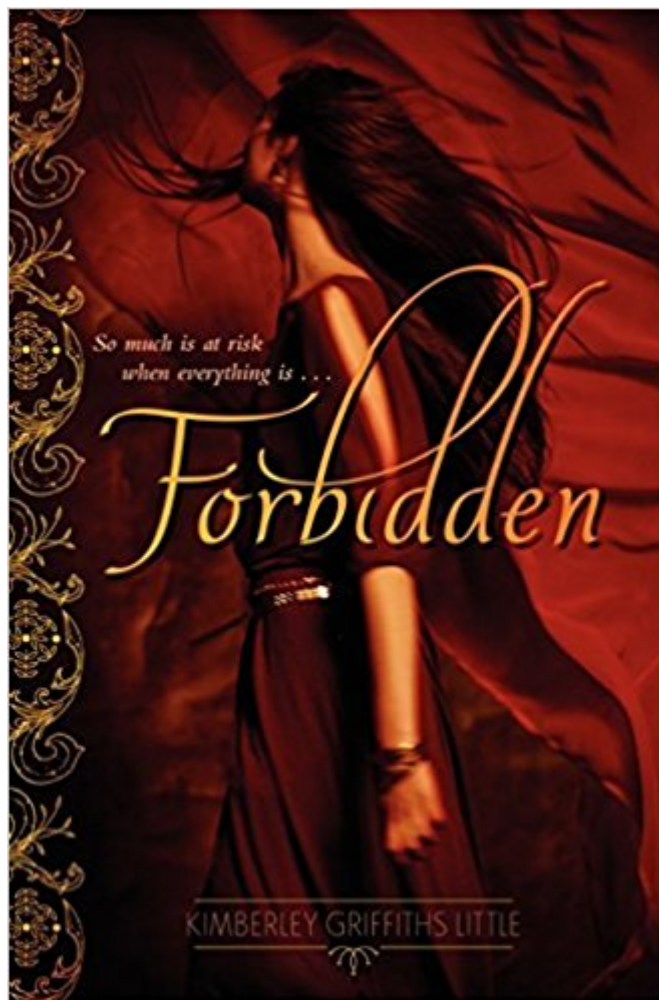


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Forbidden



Synopsis

A sweeping, epic saga of romance and hardship, set against the dramatic backdrop of Ancient Mesopotamia— for fans of Cleopatra's Moon or the adult bestseller The Red Tent. In the unforgiving Mesopotamian desert where Jayden's tribe lives, betrothal celebrations abound, and tonight it is Jayden's turn to be honored. But while this union with Horeb, the son of her tribe's leader, will bring a life of riches and restore her family's position within the tribe, it will come at the price of Jayden's heart. Then a shadowy boy from the southern lands appears. Handsome and mysterious, Kadesh fills Jayden's heart with a passion she never knew possible. But with Horeb's increasingly violent threats haunting Jayden's every move, she knows she must find a way to escape— or die trying. With a forbidden romance blossoming in her heart, and her family's survival on the line, Jayden must finish the deadly journey to save the ones she loves— and find true love for herself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

***STARRED* BOOKLIST**"Little elevates the story by creating a perilous landscape, both outward and inward, as Jayden must deal with the hardship of desert life as well as her own desires." "Lush, lyrical, romantic." "Forbidden" transports readers into a vividly imagined place and time." "—Claudia Gray, New York Times bestselling author" "The beauty of the desert of ancient Mesopotamia comes to life in Forbidden . . . Your heart will break as you root for Jayden to triumph over the struggles that tear her world apart, and the ending will leave you thirsting for

more!"--Sara B. Larson, author of *Defy* Book 1 of the FORBIDDEN trilogy by award-winning author, Kimberley Griffiths Little

“At its core, this is a romance, with all the push and pull that goes along with impossible love, and Little elevates the story by creating a perilous landscape, both outward and inward, as Jayden must deal with the hardship of desert life as well as her own desires.” (Booklist (starred review))

“A fast-paced, entertaining choice which will appeal to fans of historical fiction and romance.” (School Library Journal)

“Rich historical details are deftly woven into Jayden’s narration, and the dynamics of Jayden’s tribe are vividly drawn. Jayden’s story becomes as much about finding herself as it is about finding love.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books)

In the unforgiving Mesopotamian desert where Jayden’s tribe lives, betrothal celebrations abound, and tonight it is Jayden’s turn to be honored. But by the next morning, Jayden’s world has changed forever--she is betrothed to Horeb, the boy she does not love. With their tribe’s move to the Summer Lands, Jayden is forced to accept her fate. Then a shadowy boy from the Southern Lands appears. Handsome and mysterious, Kadesh fills Jayden’s heart with a passion she never knew possible. But with Horeb’s increasingly violent threats haunting Jayden’s every move, she knows she must find a way to escape. With a forbidden romance blossoming in her heart and her family’s survival on the line, Jayden must finish the deadly journey to save the ones she loves--and find a true love for herself. Set against the brilliant backdrop of the sprawling desert, the story of Jayden and Kadesh will leave readers absolutely breathless as they defy the odds and risk it all to be together.

Forbidden by Kimberly Griffiths Little was so captivating that I awoke early in the morning, while my family was still sleeping, so I could finish the last pages of this beautifully haunting tale. The deserts and red canyons of the Middle East create a scenic backdrop for the story of young Jayden and her nomadic family. The ancient setting perfectly matches the lives and actions of the realistic, yet enthralling characters. The account tells of a time and place when a man’s honor was in his word and when the bonds between friends and family trumped all else. By the time innocent Jayden performs the ritualistic betrothal dance, the lives of her father’s kin had long been intertwined with the family of her future husband. But her fate was not sealed until the death of the future prince left her in line to marry the next tribal heir. Though young women in her clan envy her future marriage, Jayden sees the truth about strong and willful Horeb, and wants nothing to do with him. When tragedy leaves her alone in the desert, Jayden comes upon an injured stranger, mysterious and handsome Kadesh. His secrets are matched only by his compassion for the sorrowful girl who

nurses him back to health, and in so doing captures his heart. The story of Jayden's journey is a moving tale of family, honor, pride, selflessness, heart-wrenching deception and stirring love. It will keep you turning pages and wanting for more!

As a blogger it has become rarer and rarer over the years for me to preorder a book. But there have been a dearth of ancient civ novels in my life this past decade and my gut told me that FORBIDDEN was going to be a book I would love. I mean, it's not every day you're swept away to Old Testament times and taken on an epic adventure with a young woman protagonist. Jayden suffers so much tragedy! I was literally curled up at the opposite end of the couch from my husband and he looked over at me and asked what was wrong because I had tears on my face. When I explained what had just happened to Jayden, what had happened leading up to what had set me off... he wasn't at all surprised it had moved me and I was only about a quarter of the way into it! But Jayden fights and fights and fights for herself, for her family, for what she believes in. Kadesh is an interesting hero, though I'm not certain he is a particularly accurate depiction of what a young man of the time would be like. He's a little too romantic and doesn't treat Jayden like the property of another man—her father or her betrothed—as I believe was the norm of the era but I found it forgivable because it makes for a wonderful story. If ever I was to claim a book boyfriend for myself I think I would consider Kadesh worthy of the title. The culture and way of life of the time FORBIDDEN is set in is extremely fascinating and I very much wanted to know even more. FORBIDDEN is the kind of story that you sit down to consume only to find that it has consumed you. Though I had read about 15% of it previously, the day I sat down with it again I read the whole thing in one sitting which is unheard of for me. I'm so glad I made this my first read of the new year because it was absolutely amazing. I loved it so much I want to make everyone read it. Alas, since I cannot, please consider giving it a read. It is intensely romantic, heart-wrenchingly sad, laced with hope, and will leave you dying for the release of the next book in the trilogy, BANISHED.

I've been looking forward to reading this book for a long time, and I was thrilled that it lived up to all my hopes for it. FORBIDDEN is a beautifully written story that will transport you back to the world of an ancient people who scraped out a harsh yet stunning life in Ancient Arabia. The writing is lyrical, the description fabulous, and the plots many twists and turns kept surprising me at every point. Just when I thought I knew where it was going, something changed and the thrill ride started all over again. I've written four novels set in Ancient Arabia, and Little's research was more than impressive, and more importantly it never got in the way of the story--instead the research created the

fascinating framework of lives past. Rarely do I look forward to a sequel, but this one, I might have to beg an ARC from the author.

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