



The Garden of Three Hundred Flowers

E.K. Johnston

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An interstitial short story by E.K. Johnston set between her novels A THOUSAND NIGHTS and SPINDLE!

For readers excited to learn more, this story also includes excerpts from A THOUSAND NIGHTS, SPINDLE, and Johnston's Star Wars novel, AHSOKA.

The Garden of Three Hundred Flowers Details

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Author : E.K. Johnston

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From Reader Review The Garden of Three Hundred Flowers for online ebook

Krista Baetiong Tungol says

The story is set several years after the events from A Thousand Nights, when young king Lo-Melkhiin is freed from a cunning demon, thanks to his new bride. But he cannot shake off his dark past, and is constantly riddled with guilt with the death of three hundred girls by his hands. His bride, ever astute, steps in to help, and through her the idea of his redemption is born.

This is an apt conclusion to the first book, and though there was little story to share, it was a satisfying read for me. The relationship between Lo-Melkhiin and his wife isn't ideal or romantic, even bittersweet at times, but it fit in the story line really well. And while I'd still hoped for some romantic interlude at some point, I actually liked how E. K. Johnston has ended her story.

Stephanie (Reading is Better With Cupcakes) says

This little novella to the series is chock full of spoilers for that first book. So continue with this review at your own risk. Also, don't read this novella before you read book one if you don't almost the entire full story for A Thousand Nights to be ruined for you. This novella may be short, but you will be able to pretty much get the whole story for the first book - minus a few details out of it.

The Garden of Three Hundred Roses is a novella in the Thousand Nights series. It takes place pretty much right after the first book ends. The unnamed female heroine of book 1 is still the main focal point. However, where we got some bits of the story from the demon in book one, we now get some points of this small story from a child. So it isn't as evil

We see the unnamed girl from book one as very strong and rightfully so. And this novella is mostly about her relationship with the King and how the King dealing with the realities the demon who possessed him left him with.

This novella is still written in the same style as book 1.

As far as I can tell after having read this, it is probably not necessary to read but it does give you some more closure for book one. I am not too far into book 2 to see if it really has much to do with what is going on there yet.

For the price (I found it free on Amazon) it was worth the few minutes to read. It also has some sneak peeks into E.K Johnston's other books. But, again, I warn you to not read this novella before book 1.

This review is based on a copy purchased by myself. All thoughts and opinions are mine and mine alone.

Find more of my reviews here:

<http://readingwithcupcakes.blogspot.com/>

Trisha says

"The gardeners will tend to it when I am gone," he would say. "You must learn your mother's work."

This was a short interesting story. I'm not sure it adds to either the first or second book (I haven't read book 2) but I guess it's a continuation of the first.....I liked the fable feel of it but I didn't like the italicized parts as much.

Also, the story was a bit sad. Every time she said her husband didn't come to her bed felt worse with every repeated line.

Justine says

I don't normally read shorts or novellas that are written as supplemental to a main book or series, but am I ever glad I read this one. E.K. Johnston's prose is nothing short of magical and her telling of the aftermath of the events in A Thousand Nights is perfection.

If you are a fan of Johnston's writing, you will love this.

This story is available for free download on Amazon and Kobo, so likely wherever you normally get your ebooks you can get a copy.

If you haven't yet read A Thousand Nights, you need to:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Katrin D says

I've been meaning to read this short story since forever and it's not available anywhere. I thought amazon would have, dunno, done something to have it on kindle again, but no! Seriously, what do I have to do to get to read this???

(No, that was not a rhetorical question - I actually need advice.)

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

Kindle freebie short story. Full review first posted on Fantasy Literature:

Note: Some spoilers for A Thousand Nights. Only 40% of the free Kindle file is this story; the rest contains sample chapters from three of the author's novels, including the two discussed below.

In the weeks, months and years after the events of *A Thousand Nights* (a young adult fantasy retelling of the Scheherazade framing story for *One Thousand and One Nights*), the narrator and her husband, the King, have defeated the demon that possessed him for so long and was responsible for killing the three hundred girls who came before the narrator, now the Queen. But the King is still haunted by the things his hands have done, and perhaps irretrievably broken. So the queen sets him a penance that will help both him and the kingdom to recover, which he pursues over the next several years while she takes on the burden and power of running the kingdom. Her story is interwoven with their son's comments from his future perspective.

E.K. Johnston takes the less expected path with this introspective story, though the more realistic one. There is respect and trust between the King and Queen, but not romantic love; the King is too scarred by his experiences. Frankly, I'm still bummed about that. Still, she helps him find the pathway to peace, and he helps her as well, and gives her the freedom to develop her skills and talents.

The promotional description for *The Garden of Three Hundred Flowers* calls it an "interstitial short story by E.K. Johnston set between her novels *A Thousand Nights* and *Spindle*," but it's better described as an epilogue to *A Thousand Nights*. I don't recommend reading it if you haven't read that novel; not just because of the spoilers, but because the novel provides some significant background that illuminates this bittersweet tale.

Alissa says

Johnston certainly has a way with words; this free short story is poetic and suave, despite being just a few pages long, and I truly enjoyed it.
A must-read for any fan of *A Thousand Nights*.

"I do not fear you, lady-bless, because I love you."

Gabrielle (Wishes she had more time to read) says

Filled with E.K Johnston's sweeping, poetic, prose, **The Garden of Three Hundred Flowers** is a sad, beautiful short interlude between **A Thousand Nights** and **Spindle**.

It builds on the tale of the unnamed heroine from *A Thousand Nights*, and her marriage to the now-demon-free Lo-Melkhiin. It's not as character heavy as its predecessor, focusing more on its themes of healing, forgiveness, and love. I wish the heroine and Lo-Melkhiin could have found some romance or happiness together as a couple, because quite frankly this really bummed me out. They deserved better, I thought. At some point in their lives.

But as sad as I found this, I also wish it had been longer.

Alexandra says

as beautiful and lyrical as its predecessor, even in such a short space. LOVE the repetition

Sabrina Roy says

I liked a peek of the characters in the first book. Still incredible beautiful writing. Just way too short.

Helen says

The actual story is about 47% of the content. I left it to sleep at about 35% thinking I was a third through!

The writing is poetic, lovely to read.

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

This short novel was so genuine and beautiful. The unnamed heroine of A Thousand Nights returns here for a short interlude showing how their world developed into the world of Spindle.

Again, **I love E.K. Johnston's writing so much.** The prose of this was just absolutely gorgeous. There's not much writing that I connect with in such a way, but this series was definitely an exception. The unnamed heroine of A Thousand Nights is still such a great, *feminist character*. Her character isn't as prevalent here, but still.

This short novella brings about themes of healing and love. Again, I only wish this story had been longer. Recommended for anyone who's read Spindle and A Thousand Nights.

Lata says

Nice bridge between books.

Note that this book won't make much sense unless you've read the first book in the series, A Thousand Nights.

Ronak Gajjar says

Arghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

I expected a background, some relative stuff which might support the first or second book. It's vague! It's all VAGUE!

Gabriela says

OMG! This is free on Kindle! (12/14/2016) and Kobo but I confirmed it only for the US & Canada. Anyway, enjoy it because I can't *tears*
