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# Contents

[Title](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Chapter 1](#)

[Chapter 2](#)

[Chapter 3](#)

[Chapter 4](#)

[Chapter 5](#)

[Chapter 6](#)

[Chapter 7](#)

[Chapter 8](#)

[Chapter 9](#)

[Chapter 10](#)

[Chapter 11](#)

Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends

[Chapter Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends 12](#)

[Chapter 13](#)

[Chapter 14](#)

[Chapter 15](#)

[Chapter 16](#)

[Chapter 17](#)

[Chapter 18](#)

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[Chapter 19](#)

[Chapter 20](#)

[Chapter 21](#)

[Author's Note](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

[Sneak Preview](#)

[Also By](#)

Jack and Djinn

By

Jasinda Wilder

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Jack & Djinn

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Cover art by Sarah Hansen of Okay Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends Creations. Cover art copyright Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends © 2014 Sarah Hansen.

### *Djinn:*

“**Jinn** or **djinn**(singular: **jinn**, **djinni** or **genie**, Arabic: ????? *al-jinn*, singular ????? *al-jinn*?) are supernatural creatures in Islamic mythology as well as pre-Islamic Arabian mythology. They Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends are mentioned frequently in the Quran Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends (the 72nd sura is titled *S?rat al-Jinn*) and other Islamic texts Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends and inhabit an unseen world in dimensions beyond the visible universe of humans. The Quran says that the *jinn* are made of a smokeless and "scorching fire", but are also physical in nature, being able to interfere physically with people and objects and likewise be acted upon. The *jinn*, humans and angels make up the three sapient creations of God. Like human beings, the *jinn* can be good, evil, or neutrally benevolent and hence have free will like humans and unlike angels. The *jinn* are the analogue of demons in Christian tradition, but the *jinn* are not angels and the Quran draws a clear distinction Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends between the two creations.” ~ Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jinn>)

### Chapter 1

Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends

Carson

*Present Day*

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A maintenance worker found the body—if it could even be called that—on the lowest level of the parking garage at MGM Grand Detroit. Completely immolated, the body was burned beyond recognition. All that remained was a charred pile of bones Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends and teeth. Detective Carson Hale knelt beside the pitiful remains of what had once been a person, prodding a femur with the tip of his pen.

“Damn,” he said. “There’s just nothing left. I mean, *nothing*.” Carson stood up and wiped the pen on his pant leg, wishing he hadn’t just poked a dead body with it—he had a tendency to chew on his pens.

Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends

“I know,” the responding DPD officer answered. “What I can’t figure out is, what could have happened to do this to a body? I mean, I’m not even sure how we’ll get a positive I.D. on this person.”

“Not only that, but there’s no other evidence of fire. Look around. For it to get hot enough to do *this* to a body, there should be other evidence of the fire, right? But there’s nothing. No scorch marks on the floors, the walls, or even on the ceiling, which isn’t that high.”

“Maybe the body was torched? Like, with accelerant or something?” The officer was a young woman, only two years on the force, and seemed queasy looking at the remains.

Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends

“I don’t know, though. If that were the case, wouldn’t there at least be burn marks on the pavement here? Also, if a person is on fire, they panic, you know? It takes time for them to die, so they run around, knock into things. There should be smears on the wall where the victim slammed into it, but there’s nothing. It’s as if the victim was lit on fire where they stood and then instantly they were virtually vaporized into this little pile.”

“Okay, let’s forget the body for a second.” The officer glanced around at the taped-off crime scene. They were in a distant corner of the garage, a dead end where few cars ever parked. “What else do we know? Anything?”

“Well, for one thing, there’s that pool of blood over there.” Carson pointed to a spot a few feet away from the skeleton where the forensic team was taking samples. “It’s a big pool of blood, but I don’t think it’s from this guy here, though.”

They walked over, and the officer examined the blood more closely. It was partially dried and still tacky in places, likely several hours old, but not more than twenty-four. “You’re right about that. I agree that this blood is definitely from a second person.”

“And, number two, there’s the matter of the four shell casings Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends and the 9mm pistol near the body. It almost looks as if the gun was dropped when the victim was torched. However *that* happened.” Carson pointed to a third area, nearer the burned skeleton. “We’re probably looking for a second body, based on the amount of blood that’s here. I’m guessing we have a double homicide. The pistol and the casings are near the burn victim, which makes me think he or she was the shooter.” Carson was conjecturing out loud, trying to piece together a scenario based on Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends the few facts

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they had.

"I don't know," the officer objected. "If someone is shot four times, they won't be setting anyone on fire. If you ask me, I think you're looking for another body *and* a third person, the killer."

"I agree," Carson said. "Either way, the next step is to fingerprint the gun and the casings, and see where that leads us."

The casino manager was Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends standing Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends nearby, giving his report to a patrol officer. Carson didn't like the manager on Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends sight. He was an older man, short and agitated, with a sharp nose, beady, shifting eyes, and nervous fingers. He avoided eye contact, and he Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends shuffled his feet as if he'd like to run away. Ratty, Carson thought, Mr. Rat. The man even had a squeaky voice.

"I don't know nothing," Mr. Rat exclaimed. "I swear it. I wasn't here 'til mebbe five o'clock this evening, and you're telling me this all happened late last night or early this morning. The shifts've all changed since then. I can't tell you nothing but who was on schedule last night and when they'll be on again. But you gotta remember, we got dozens of waitresses, plus security and janitors. This place is huge, officer. You know that. We got a staff that runs in the hundreds. Getting any of 'em to tell you a straight story, even *if* they saw something, well, that's gonna be quite a chore, not to mention tracking 'em all down. I'll tell you what I can do is, I'll put the word out to the staff that if anyone knows anything to tell me, and I'll pass it along to you. The thing is, like any parking garage, that Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends one's open to the street, so anyone could've wandered in Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends and my staff wouldn't've seen nothing anyway."

Carson hated to admit Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends it, but Mr. Rat was right. Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends There was simply no way they could spend the time Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends hunting down all the people who might have seen something, especially when there was no evidence the victim or victims had ever been inside the casino in the first place. As he swung his muscular, six-foot-three frame into the unmarked Impala, Carson had a feeling that this was going to be a tricky case. Some were like that. You started out with very little to go on, and got no further. The boxes full of unsolved cold cases back at the precinct were proof of that.

There was something about the way the body was burned that kept turning over in Carson's head. No matter which way he looked at it, he couldn't make sense of it. Had the body been burned somewhere Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends else and dumped in the garage? That made no sense whatsoever; the body had obviously fallen *in situ*. The way the bones were arranged suggested the body had toppled over dead on the spot, some bones Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends still touching where they had been joined by tissue. If the remains had been dumped, the bones would be a jumbled mess. Besides, why would someone dump a dead, burnt-to-a-crisp body in a casino parking garage? A gambling debt? That was one possibility, but until they had a positive I.D. on the body, it was mere conjecture.

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The security cameras had a few images that might be connected to the crime, but there was no footage of the crime itself.

“I’m Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends gonna need the surveillance tapes for the whole garage,” Carson said, “going back forty-eight hours. Officer Nagle, you can handle that. Go through the footage and see if you can find anything.”

He went back to the precinct and immediately went to the forensic lab. The pistol and the casings were dusted for fingerprints, the results from the FBI database coming back a couple of hours later: The prints belonged to Benjamin Wade, twenty-nine years old, two tours of duty in Afghanistan with the U.S. Marine Corps. No priors Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends except for a few parking tickets and a speeding ticket. Wade rented an apartment in downtown Royal Oak. A day spent digging produced Wade’s military records and resulted in dental records matching the body found in the MGM Grand parking garage.

It wasn’t much to go on, but it was a start.

As soon as the positive I.D. on the body came back, Carson drove up to Wade’s apartment complex in Royal Oak and spoke to the apartment manager. The apartment manager claimed he’d only Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends met Ben once, when he signed the lease. Out of all the residents, there was only one neighbor who had any pertinent information, Matthew Hackett. Matt was a retiree, a portly older man with yellow, nicotine-stained teeth and long, unkempt hair and a grizzled beard.

“Yeah, I know Ben a little,” Matt claimed in a rough grumble tinged with a thick Southern drawl. Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends “Not well, but some. He’s nice enough to me, when I see him in the hallway. Spent two years fighting that war in Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends Afghanistan, you know.”

“Does he have a girlfriend?” Carson asked. “Anyone who comes over on a regular basis?”

“Oh, yeah,” Matt answered, “Miriam, I think her name is. Nice girl. Mebbe five-five, real long brown hair, nearly down to her waist. Beautiful girl, that Miriam. Had a real nice set of—” Matt trailed off with his hands cupped in front of his chest. “Er. Yeah. She’s real pretty.”

“Do you know if she and Ben get along?” Carson asked.

“Most of the time, I guess. I hear ’em arguing a good bit, mostly him yelling at her. She don’t stay over, though—she usually leaves late at night. I don’t sleep much, you know.”

“So you watch your neighbors?” Carson asked.

“Well...” Matt shifted uncomfortably, flushing red. “I ain’t done nothing—I Jack and Djinn: The Houri Legends just watch her go, make sure she gets out to the street okay. I feel bad for her, a bit. Why she stays with Ben, I don’t know.”

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## Jack And Djinn The Houri Legends

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