



THORN

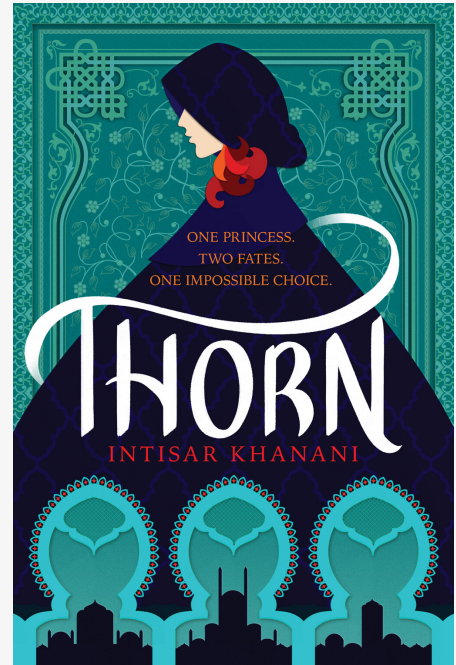
A princess with two futures. A destiny all her own.

Between her cruel family and the contempt she faces at court, Princess Alyrra has always longed to escape the confines of her royal life. But when she's betrothed to the powerful prince Kestrin, Alyrra embarks on a journey to his land with little hope for a better future.

When a mysterious and terrifying sorceress robs Alyrra of both her identity and her role as princess, Alyrra seizes the opportunity to start a new life for herself as a goose girl.

But Alyrra soon finds that Kestrin is not what she expected. The more Alyrra learns of this new kingdom, the pain and suffering its people endure, as well as the danger facing Kestrin from the sorceress herself, the more she knows she can't remain the goose girl forever.

With the fate of the kingdom at stake, Alyrra is caught between two worlds and ultimately must decide who she is, and what she stands for.



"A quietly profound and beautiful fairy tale that I'll be recommending for years."

- S A Chakraborty,
The City of Brass



Intisar Khanani grew up a nomad and world traveller. Prior to publishing her novels, Intisar worked as a public health consultant on projects relating to infant mortality and minority health, which was as close as she could get to saving the world. Now she focuses her time on her two passions: raising her family and writing fantasy. Find out more at booksbyintisar.com.

Thorn Book Club Discussion Guide

I hope you enjoyed Alyrra's story! Here's a discussion guide for your book club to have fun with. Let me know if you have any suggestions - I'm always looking to improve this. And remember, I can do a virtual author visit to your book club to answer your own questions if you'd like! Just e-mail me at booksbyintisar@gmail.com

Ice Breakers / Quick Answers:

1. Geese or horses?
2. Justice or Vengeance?
3. Slow burn or Insta-love?

Discussion Questions:

1. Alyrra has been deeply betrayed by both her family and her peers, which influences her relationship with Kestrin. In what ways have you dealt with betrayal in your life? How has that impacted your relationships with others?
2. Over the course of the story, Alyrra learns to find strength in breaking her silence. What events or incidents do you think affected Alyrra the most in this regard? Is this something that you have struggled with?
3. What are the dynamics of power between Alyrra and Kestrin? Did the power shift over the course of the story? How would you characterize their relationship at the end of the book?
4. Consider our legal system in the context of mercy and justice. Where does it fall short or succeed? Is it applied equally or unequally across our society?
5. When Alyrra is put on trial, she faces a panel of judges who appear to have already decided against her. Have you ever faced a situation in which losing seemed inevitable? Looking back, what would you change in your response?
6. After the Lady's testing, Alyrra tells Kestrin she didn't know he was the Wind. She feels this to be the deepest betrayal of all. Why do you think it was the deepest for her? How would you feel in her situation?