



Prisoner in the Gate of Shadows

sadjia tuol tuol

*Prisoner in
the Cate of Shadows*

Sadjia Juol tuol

Dar Nasmata Al-Adab for Electronic Publishing
reviews to you with determination and new
creativity

Book : Prisoner in the Gate of Shadows

Author: Sadjia Tuol tuol

Book Cover: Samar Rashad

MOQ Up Book: Mona Magdy

Internal Coordination: Mona wagih

House Management: Razan Mohammed

Kulaib

With the breezes of literature, your ideas
come to life!

[نسمات الأدب للنشر الإلكتروني](#)

Dedication

To myself, who crossed the shadows' embrace,
With dreams intertwined with fear and grace.

To every word that bled from my vein, Amidst
fierce winds and night's dark reign.

To the resolve that never did betray, Despite
the doubts that clouded my way. To the faith
that guided my feet to strive, Opening doors to
the heights where dreams survive.

To every heart that defied the black, Lighting
the path where ashes stack. To those who
made writing a blazing flame, A salvation from
darkness, a triumph untamed.

To dreams that never fade nor cease, To every
courage that transcended grief. This work is a

**hymn to boldness and might, And to every soul
that reconciled with its light.**

**I dedicate this to you, my own, A journey of
radiance through shadows unknown. This
victory is an eternal refrain, A heartbeat my
soul has etched in the plane .**

Introduction

In the stillness of night, when shadows creep,
And the darkness veils the eyes in deep, A tale
unfolds of a world unknown, A realm where
wonders and fears are sown. A black gateway
looms on the distant line, Whispering secrets
like clouds divine. It binds the worlds with
threads so thin, Hiding dreams and mysteries
within. A simple soul, born of radiant light,
Stumbles upon a puzzle sealed tight. A journey
begins, where doors swing wide, Between
light and dark, where truths collide. Is this a
path or a prison concealed? A fate the cosmos
itself has revealed? Questions linger in every
turn, Fueling the fire for answers to learn. So

venture forth into the shadowed haze,
Between life and death, through cryptic maze.
The truth awaits at the journey's end, When
shadows to light begin to bend .

On a dark night, swept by cold winds, the city lay in solemn silence, broken only by the echoing footsteps of Lilan in the narrow alleys. Her life was a series of repetitive, colorless days, a dull monotony of time passing without purpose. Yet, on this night, she felt something strange—a mysterious sensation coursing through her veins, like a call from the unknown. In the corner of an abandoned library, her eyes were drawn to an ancient map carefully placed on a dusty, worn shelf. The map seemed alive, glowing faintly as she moved closer. She hesitated, then reached out, feeling a strange warmth radiating from it, as if it were pulsing with life. The moment her fingers touched it, the world around her

trembled and dissolved into a whirl of light and shadows. She found herself in an unfamiliar place—a strange realm where the sky rippled with black streaked with the blood-red glow of stars, and the ground shimmered like glass. The air was alive with cryptic sounds, whispers, and songs in a language she didn't understand. Fear began to creep into her heart, but she wasn't alone.

"At last, you've arrived." A deep voice emerged from the shadows. Turning, she saw a tall man with sharp features and eyes ablaze with an unusual violet glow. She didn't recognize him, but his gaze was filled with secrets.

"This is no coincidence. The gate has chosen you," he said calmly.

His words were a riddle, but she had no time to ask questions. The ground beneath her began to quake, and strange entities materialized from nowhere—forms cloaked in dense shadows, their eyes glowing like embers.

"Run!" the man shouted, pointing toward a serpentine path winding toward the horizon.

She ran with all her strength, the creatures' howls growing louder behind her. Her breath was ragged, her chest tight, but she didn't stop. At the end of the path stood a massive gate, adorned with glowing silver symbols. Before she could touch it, something gripped her

shoulder. Turning, she faced a towering creature, its eyes like twin pits of fire. It raised its hand to strike, but the man's voice rang out again, this time with fury:

"Do not touch her!" A sphere of light shot from his hand, forcing the creature to retreat with a pained scream. Lilan stood frozen, her breath quick and shallow. The man seized her hand and pushed her toward the gate.

"The choice is yours now," he said.

"Enter to uncover the truth, or turn back and live a life in the shadows." She stared at the gate, torn between fear and curiosity.

Finally, she extended her hand and stepped through. What awaited her on the other side was more mysterious than she had ever

imagined. She found herself in a world of dark hues, where trees whispered secrets and the sky was filled with unnaturally fast-moving clouds. The land seemed alive, pulsating with power. Every step she took felt like it was watched by unseen eyes. "Welcome to the Realm of Shadows." The voice echoed from every direction—haunting, yet laced with an undeniable allure.

"You are here because you are the only one who can restore balance between the worlds. But beware: every step you take will lead you closer to sacrifice." Gradually, Lilan began to realize that the gate wasn't just a portal to another world but a key to immense power. The closer she came to unraveling its secrets,

the greater the dangers became, and the more intricate the mysteries surrounding her grew. In every corner, she faced new challenges merciless creatures, riddles requiring extraordinary wit, and enigmatic figures manipulating her for their own ends. But one thing was clear: the Realm of Shadows was no place for the faint-hearted. The deeper she ventured, the more she understood that she had to confront her own truths and the buried secrets of her past. The shadows were closer than she thought, and the enemies were not always strangers .

With every step Lilan took, she felt the weight of her choice growing heavier on her shoulders. It seemed that the shadows were

not only threatening her life, but had also seeped into her soul, as if they were testing the strength of her will. As she advanced further, a black lake appeared before her, its surface smooth as a mirror, reflecting a sky filled with glowing red cracks. As she gazed into the water, her reflection appeared, but it wasn't the face she knew. Her features seemed altered, and her eyes carried an eerie gleam. Suddenly, a strange voice pierced the silence:

"Do you see what you've become? This is the face of truth." She turned to see a mysterious woman dressed in a translucent gown made of shadows themselves. The woman spoke with a calm voice, yet it carried an unmatched power.

"Who are you?" Lilan asked, trying to control her fear.

The woman smiled lightly and said, "I am your reflection, a part of you that has been hidden all these years. I am the shadows you fear, and the energy you need to survive here. But remember, power comes at a price." The woman began to approach, holding a small necklace that glowed with a faint light.

"Take it. It will help you, but it will bring you closer to the darkness." Lilan hesitated, but something compelled her to reach out. The moment she touched the necklace, a surge of energy coursed through her body. All the fear that had burdened her vanished, replaced by a sense of strength and control. But with this

power came mysterious whispers in her mind, voices whispering thoughts that weren't hers.

"The shadows are starting to claim you," said the woman before suddenly disappearing, leaving Lilan alone before the lake. In her next journey, Lilan began encountering strange creatures, some offering help, others trying to trap her in deadly snares. But she knew she had to press on. The gate she came through was not just a portal to this world; it was the beginning of a dangerous game.

The closer she got to the center, the more she began to see visions of a past she had never lived, scenes of people fighting under a burning sky, and a massive being looming from atop a dark mountain, its eyes filled with a

desire to destroy everything. Lilan gradually realized that this being was trying to control the gate, and that it was the cause of the imbalance in the worlds. But she also began to understand that she was not just a random victim of this place. There was a reason she was chosen, and a secret buried deep within her that she had yet to discover. In a final confrontation with a being resembling an ancient warrior, she learned from him that this world was created from the remnants of destroyed dreams. Every fear, every nightmare lived by humans, had turned into a power that fed the shadows. Lilan was the key to breaking this cycle, but the choice was hard: saving the realm of shadows would mean sacrificing her

real world. With every step, she came to realize that the shadows were not just enemies, but part of the truth she was trying to erase. So, was she ready to sacrifice everything, or would she retreat and allow the worlds to collapse?

As Lilan pondered the warrior's last words, she felt the weight of both worlds pressing down on her soul. She knew that the decision she would make would change her fate and the fate of everyone around her. There was no perfect choice; both paths carried losses, and both demanded sacrifices. Deep within the Black Forest, where the shadows appeared like living beings moving among the trees, the warrior led her to an ancient place known as

"The Heart of Darkness," a central point where the energies of light and shadow intertwined. There, everything was quiet and terrifying at the same time, as if the world were watching her final breaths before the decision. The warrior said,

"This is where the story ends. The entity is waiting for you. If you want to defeat it, you must gather your strength and face it alone. No one can help you here." Lilan asked with a trembling voice,

"Why me? Why did the gate choose me?" The warrior smiled sadly,

"Because you are not what you think you are. You are more than just an ordinary human. There is something within you that you have

yet to awaken. You are the link between the worlds. If your balance is lost, everything will be lost." Before she could respond, the ground beneath her feet exploded, and the great gate appeared before her. It was different from the gate she had passed through before. This one was massive, covered in magical symbols glowing with a deep golden color. Before it stood the entity. The entity was a being that couldn't be easily described. Its body was made of shadows, but it pulsed with fierce energy. Its eyes were like burning pits of fire, and its voice, when it spoke, was like a thousand voices speaking at once. "Finally, you've come, O key to balance," the entity said with a mocking smile. "I've waited for this

moment for so long. You don't understand what you are. But that's okay, I'll show you." Before she could respond, the entity raised its hand, and suddenly, Lilan saw images from her life flash before her eyes: her childhood, her loneliness, her constant search for a place to belong. Then, she began to see things she hadn't known—scenes from her life, but they seemed distorted or altered. "What is this?" she screamed. The entity laughed, "This is your true face. You are not from the world you call home. You are part of the shadows, created to maintain the balance, but you chose to live as human. Now, it is time for you to return to your true self." Lilan felt doubt tearing at her. Was what the entity said true?

Was she really part of this world? But she quickly realized that the entity was trying to manipulate her. She looked at it with eyes burning with determination and said, "Even if what you're saying is true, I choose who I am. I won't let you destroy the worlds." A fierce battle erupted between them. The energies of darkness and light clashed in every corner of the place, creating storms of energy that destroyed everything around them. Lilan felt her strength waning, but in a decisive moment, she summoned all the memories that had made her strong: her friendships, her losses, every time she fought to stay alive. With this inner strength, she was able to strike the entity at its heart. The shadows around it

exploded, but before it disappeared, it said in a broken voice, "You have survived... but shadows do not die." When it was all over, Lilan found herself standing alone before the gate. The world around her began to collapse, but she felt at peace. She knew the worlds would need time to heal, but she was confident that she had done the right thing. She returned to her real world, but she was no longer the same. She was strong, balanced, and aware that both shadows and light were a part of every person. As she walked through the familiar streets, she felt a breeze carrying with it a strange whisper: "The other gate is waiting for you "...

Despite everything, Lilan felt something strange deep within her, a sensation she could not ignore. She returned to her daily life, but everything seemed different now. The streets of the city she had come back to felt alien to her, as though she were looking at them through a fogged window, neither touching them nor truly belonging, only catching glimpses. In the days following her return, she tried to regain her life, but her friends and family sensed that something had changed in her. Everyone wondered about the changes in her behavior, in the way she thought, as if something strange had taken over her. With every passing moment, she felt the gate she had crossed still influencing her, as if it were

now a part of her life that could never be erased. One day, while wandering in the old library where she had first discovered the map, she felt an odd gaze watching her from the dark corners. As she approached another crumbling shelf, she looked down to find another map, but this time, it showed places she did not know, borders of a new world. She felt something strange, as though the map was calling to her. And despite knowing the danger, there was something she could not ignore. The other gate, the one the entity had whispered about in its final moments, perhaps had not fully closed after all. When she touched the map, a strange pulse ran through her body, as if she were being transported through time

and space once again. Her heart trembled, and she knew that what had seemed like a choice that had ended, had now become an inevitability. She would face another world, but this time, she was not just a victim of the shadows; she was the power. Before she could make her decision, whispers were heard behind her, whispers from the shadows themselves, saying: "Are you ready to continue what you started? The door hasn't closed, and your fate awaits you in a world we don't yet know." Before she could respond, darkness began to seep around her, and the things around her moved as if the entire world were rearranging itself, waiting for the moment when Lilan would open the door

once again. Was she ready to face this adventure? Would she be able to maintain her balance, or would the shadows regain their power? One of her greatest journeys might begin here, and it would not end as it started .

As Lilan stood in front of the map, she felt each step leading her into the unknown. Her heart was pounding, and thoughts were racing through her mind. Was she about to embark on a new adventure? Or was this another trap? But something deep inside told her that this was the path she had chosen from the beginning, and there was no turning back now. She grasped the map tightly, feeling the irresistible urge within her. She didn't need words; everything was clear now. The voice

that had been whispering in her mind grew louder, as if the shadows themselves were trying to help her make her decision, or perhaps, they were guiding her toward the destiny that had been hidden from her all this time. She moved toward the dark entrance in the library, which seemed to open before her once again. As darkness surrounded her, the place began to transform into something entirely different. There were unseen voices, whispering things she didn't fully understand, but a mysterious feeling told her she was on the verge of something bigger. Then, as if time had stopped, another gate appeared before her, larger and stranger than anything she had seen before. It shimmered with a faint blue

light, and its edges rippled as if made from threads of both shadow and light. In that moment, Lilan felt she was not alone. There was something, or someone, standing behind her, but when she turned, she saw no one. Taking a deep breath, she crossed the threshold of the gate. The world she found herself entering was astonishing, different from anything she knew. The sky was covered with black-gray clouds flowing like a river of darkness, and the ground beneath her feet was covered with materials she had never seen before. Everything felt tense, as if the very place was watching her. She felt something strange creeping into her, a feeling of isolation, but at the same time, she sensed that this was

the most "herself" she had ever been. There was something inside her urging her forward, even though she knew that this time, it might be more dangerous than ever before. As she wandered through this strange world, she began to notice something: there were footprints on the ground, as though someone else had passed through here before. Looking around, she noticed that every step she left behind vanished quickly into the shadows, as if the place itself devoured everything. Suddenly, a dark figure appeared before her. It was a foggy shadow, with red eyes glowing in the darkness, slowly approaching her. "You're here, finally, the key to the worlds," the entity said in a low voice, but it resonated in her ears

as if the words were being etched into her heart. "What do you want from me?" Lilan asked calmly, though her heart was trembling. The entity spoke in a very calm tone: "You are now at the heart of the shadows, and in this place, everything is possible. Every decision you make will have consequences. This is where fate is forged, but you still don't know a large part of your story." Lilan felt that there were many mysteries surrounding her. She remembered the words of the warrior she had met in the shadow world, when he told her, "You are the link between worlds." But she only truly understood the meaning of those words now, as everything slowly began to reveal itself. "Are you ready to know the

truth?" the entity asked. "I am ready," Lilan answered decisively, though she knew that the answer might open another door to shadows from which she might not escape. With a faint smile, the entity took a step forward and said, "You are not just human. You are the being who can restore balance between the worlds. But you will be forced to walk a dark path. There is no turning back now." Suddenly, Lilan felt something stir within her, a strange sensation as if she was beginning to feel everything around her in ways she hadn't known she could.

This transformation was a sign of something greater, something that had been growing in her heart ever since she crossed the

first gate. The shadows surrounded her from every side, but now, she felt ready to face them. This world, though filled with threats and secrets, was the other part of the truth she had been searching for all her life. The moment had come .

In that moment, Lilan felt a strange sensation overwhelm her. It was as if time itself had stopped, as if she was on the edge of two worlds, standing at the threshold of a decision that could not be undone. She knew this was a real test—a test of her skills, of what she had become. But more than anything, it was a test of her will and her ability to determine her own fate. She looked at the entity standing before her, as if its gaze was testing the depth

of her thoughts. She felt a halo of shadows surrounding her, as if the entire world was breathing through her, as if she had become part of this mysterious power. The entity spoke in a calm voice, but with a hint of strength: "You are now at the heart of balance. As you learned in the past, the worlds are connected, each world depends on the other. But there is a great danger looming on the horizon. The gate you crossed, it was meant to be opened only at a certain time. Now, time itself is beginning to crumble." Lilan's heart began to race as she tried to understand its words. But not allowing the tension to affect her, she said firmly: "If time is threatened, I will try to fix it. But I will do it my way." The entity

smiled with appreciation, as if it had expected this answer. "You are stronger than you thought. And now, you must make the final decision: Will you close the gate forever, preserving the worlds but leaving the shadows to dwell within them forever? Or will you reopen it, maintaining the balance, but with the risk of continued chaos?" Lilan paused for a moment, thinking about everything she had gone through: the moments when she was weak, the situations where she faced her fears, the transformations she had lived, and the people she had met along the way. All these experiences had shaped who she was now. But deep down, she knew the choice she would make would determine her fate and the

fate of the worlds. She took a deep breath, then said in a strong voice, raising her hand toward the dark sky: "I will not close the gate. I will make it part of our lives. The shadows and the light will live together, but in balance. We, as beings, must learn to live together in this harmony." Immediately, the gate began to glow around her, and the shadows and light danced together in a mesmerizing yet terrifying display. The earth beneath her feet began to change, as if everything was reshaping itself. In that moment, Lilan felt a deep power within her, a power from both worlds, as she became the link between the shadows and the light. But, as she feared, the cost of this balance was high. She felt a part of

her being pulled away, as if she were paying the price for the decision she had made. But this time, there was no fear. She knew she had chosen the right path. Then, suddenly, a new gate opened before her, filled with light and harmonious shadows. She knew this was the path that led to the future, to a new world where balance between the worlds could be achieved. This was the great challenge, the test she had been preparing for all her life. The entity spoke before it vanished: "You have chosen the harder path, but you have done what is right. You will find peace, but peace does not mean the absence of challenges. You are now the guardian of this balance, and your power will continue to pass between the

worlds forever." Before the shadows could strike, before it vanished, and before it fell to the ground, Lilan caught the final moment of the chaos swirling around her, feeling a deep sense of tranquility. Her decision had been made. There was no turning back .

As the creature disappeared into the depths of the shadows, Lilan felt that she had become part of this complex blend of shadows and light. The ground beneath her feet shifted strangely, as if it were reshaping itself based on her choices. The gateway in front of her lit up and began to dissolve gradually, leaving behind a misty path that seemed like it would lead her to another world, a completely new one. As she stood in this decisive moment,

Lilan reflected on the changes that had happened to her. The powers she had discovered within herself seemed like something ancient, something that had always been there but buried beneath layers of fear and doubt. But now, after crossing into this changing world, she had the ability to influence it, to face whatever was to come. As she moved toward the new gateway, which seemed to be waiting for her, she felt a sense of relief, as if she had completed one phase of her life and opened a completely new door. However, she also knew that this was not the end of the journey, but the beginning of a new chapter. The gateway in front of her was not just a physical portal, but a gateway to

consciousness, to knowledge that would open new paths for her, where she would face more challenges and dangers. Suddenly, a strange voice rang in her ears, the same voice she had heard when her adventure first began. This time, the voice carried a single message: "It is not over, and it will not end, as long as the shadows still exist. The road is long, but you will not be alone." Then, a misty image of a strange man appeared in front of her, his face glowing with light as he smiled gently. This man was the "mysterious warrior" she had met before in the world of shadows. He was not just a passing character; he was part of the fabric that connects the worlds together. "Lilan," he said calmly, "You are now the

guardian of balance between the worlds, and you must continue the mission you started. But be warned, there are those who seek to use the gateway for their own purposes." Lilan felt a chill, as if another threat had begun to emerge on the horizon. Yet, she also felt the strength that all these experiences seemed to grant her. She had gained new powers she hadn't known existed within herself, and she knew she had to continue what she had started, no matter the difficulties she would face. Then, in a moment of perfect clarity, Lilan understood that this adventure was not just a test of physical or mental strength, but a test of her spirit, her determination, and her faith in the values she had chosen. As she continued

her path toward the glowing gateway, darkness surrounded her from all sides, but it no longer frightened her. The closer she got to this new gateway, the more she felt she was drawing closer to the greatest truth, the truth that might unveil the secret of the universe, the secret of parallel worlds, and the secret of shadows and light. With every step, the future moved toward her, and her greatest enemy, the dark entity that sought to breach and control the worlds, watched her from afar. But now, Lilan was no longer just a victim. She had become an unstoppable force, the guardian who would stand between the worlds, protecting the balance with all the courage and faith she had. As she finally crossed the

gateway, the shadows around her vanished, and a new horizon appeared before her, full of hope and challenges. She knew the road ahead was still long, and that the shadows had not completely disappeared, but she was ready to face everything, to confront every mysterious being, and every dark force, in order to maintain the balance between the two worlds. And so, the first battle chapter ended, but the true journey had only just begun .

As Lilan stood in the new horizon, she felt a strange sense of balance. She had crossed the Gateway of Shadows, but the shadows that once surrounded her no longer filled her with dread. She was now more than just a traveler

in two intertwined worlds; she had become the guardian of the secret balance between them. However, there was another feeling that filled her, a sense that something larger was waiting for her. She had succeeded in closing the Gate of Chaos at the last moment, but she knew there were many more gates still open, gates that could not be closed as simply as she had once thought. At the edge of that horizon, she felt something touch her heart, deeper than any threat or confrontation she had faced before. A feeling of solitude, and a sense that the world she stood in was not just a place, but a canvas filled with unfinished details. "Lilan," she heard a familiar voice within her, a voice coming from the depths of

her being, "Your mission is not over." The words were simple, but they carried a weight greater than any sentence could bear. She turned to find herself in front of a new person, or perhaps it was the same person she had met before, but this time he appeared in a strange, blurry form. He started as a misty shape, but gradually became clearer. "Who are you?" Lilan asked, unable to tell whether she had met this person before or if it was just a subtle feeling that accompanied her. "I am the one who will set you on a new path. What you have done was just the beginning, Lilan. Just as you were the guardian of the Gateway of Shadows, you must now maintain the balance between everything. Your worlds, and

every world on its own, merge into a unique moment that could change the course of history." Lilan listened intently, feeling a great desire to understand. "So, what do I do now?" she asked firmly. The misty figure smiled and said, "You have not yet met the other world that humans cannot see. There is another gateway, leading you to different worlds, to deeper secrets than those you have been searching for. But, there are those who are now trying to bring the shadows back into place, because some believe that shadows are the true force that cannot be destroyed." The words became more mysterious, but she felt that this time was different. She knew that what lay ahead was a new challenge, that

everything she had lived through so far was just the introduction, and that the time had come to expand the limits of her abilities. "Am I ready?" Lilan asked softly. "If you have entered the world of shadows and faced all that you have faced, you are more than ready. But you must know that the decision is not always yours alone. There will be those who guide you, but in the end, you will be alone." replied the misty figure, who began to fade gradually, leaving behind a sense of mystery.

"But I can't go back," Lilan said to herself, feeling the weight of the responsibility that had been placed upon her. She knew that challenges lay ahead that she could never have imagined, and that she would be in a constant

battle to maintain the balance between the worlds. As she pondered her next steps, she felt something strange creeping inside her again. There was an energy growing within her, as if she were feeding off both shadows and light simultaneously. Nothing could stop her now. She was the bridge between the worlds, and in that sense, she was a hope for restoring order, but at the same time, she feared that any step she took could be the beginning of an unseen end. "Lilan," she said to herself with determination, "This is not the end, but a new beginning." With that, as she moved toward the new gateway, the sky began to take on an unfamiliar hue, and the light that emanated from it illuminated the shadows that

enveloped her. A new world awaited her, full of secrets and threats, but it was also filled with hope .

As Lilan crossed the new gateway, she felt as if she were entering a completely different place. Time and space seemed unstable, as if they were dancing around her in an unfamiliar fusion. The horizon was blurry, where mysterious colors met strange terrains in a way she had never seen before. Beams of light scattered through the air, while shadows spread unevenly on the ground, as if they were living beings moving in silence. Lilan kept her calm, but her heart was racing. She knew that what she was facing now was an entirely new phase of her journey. She had to discover this

new world, which was not part of the realms she had known before. She also felt that every step she took could lead to a new discovery, one that could bring either hope or danger. As she moved cautiously, she felt something watching her. The eyes were invisible, but they were present in the air. Faint sounds, like distant whispers, scattered around her, but she saw no one. She felt as if this place was breathing with her, changing with her, as though all the realms were connected to her in an invisible way. Then, suddenly, a strange figure appeared before her, a person who seemed to float in the air, as if they were part of the very place itself. He was cloaked in dark robes, with eyes that glowed like stars. He had

a powerful presence, as though the entire universe had manifested in him. "You are the one who came from the Gateway of Shadows," he said in a deep, yet calm voice, as if he knew everything about her. "You have been chosen." "Who are you?" Lilan asked, realizing she stood before someone who might be the key to understanding this new world. The strange man smiled a mysterious smile. "I am the guardian of what remains of this world, the guardian of the gateway you are now a part of. You have passed through time and space, crossed boundaries that no ordinary being can traverse. But you are not the only one searching for the power that spreads here." "The gateway... Is it open to everyone?"

Lilan wondered, feeling there was more to the guardian's words than he was letting on. "No," the guardian replied, "Only those who are aware of the power that binds the worlds. The gateway is not just a passage; it represents an eternal struggle between light and shadows. And you, Lilan, have chosen to be the guardian of this balance. But remember, no one can judge this struggle alone."

"Does that mean I'm not the only one carrying this power?" Lilan wondered silently, realizing that what seemed like one mission might be more complicated than she had anticipated.

"You are not the only one," the guardian said.

"But your choices will determine your fate and the fate of other realms. From here begins a

new war, a war for power, for control of the gateway. You will fight to maintain balance, but every step will take you deeper into the shadows." Lilan could feel that rising power within her, an energy she couldn't fully explain. But at the same time, she felt like she was on the edge of the unknown. With every word the guardian spoke, it became clearer to her that her mission was not just about protection—it was also a test of her inner strength. "If you wish to preserve the balance, you must overcome your fear," the guardian said, before suddenly vanishing into thick mist. "If you fail, all the realms will be at risk. You have been chosen, Lilan, but the decision is yours." Lilan stood there, lost in thought, caught between

doubts and hope. She couldn't tell whether she had reached the end of one journey or if this was just the beginning of an even greater struggle. But one thing was clear in her mind: if she had chosen to be the guardian of balance, the path ahead would be fraught with danger. She would have to make wise decisions, for every choice could lead to consequences that could never be undone. She knew she had begun a journey bigger than anything she had ever imagined, a journey to preserve the realms, a journey for light and shadows .

As Lilan pondered the guardian's words, the ground beneath her feet suddenly began to shake. Something invisible moved in the

space, as if the world itself was responding to her questions, or perhaps testing her. The sense of danger was intensifying, and the wind in this place sounded strange, whispering unintelligible words in her ear, as if it were trying to warn her. Then, a beam of light unexpectedly appeared, and a massive image of a dark world unfolded before her. The shades within it moved rapidly, as if an invisible struggle was occurring at the heart of this strange place. Before her, a scene emerged of thousands of intertwined doors, each leading to different places—some filled with shadows, some with light, and others that couldn't be defined. At that moment, Lilan understood that the gateway she had crossed was not the

only one. There were many other doors, each representing a new challenge. But the doors that led to the shadows were the most dangerous, as they embodied the past of the realms, an ancient memory filled with devastation. What if she herself was part of these shadows? What if the power she had discovered was exactly what the dark being needed to control everything? As she questioned this, the dark image suddenly vanished, and in its place appeared another world, one that seemed more stable. The trees here were green and uniform, and the horizon was clear like water. Yet, there was another door—dark and elevated, carrying an eerie image. It seemed that this was the gateway to

the heart of the shadows, where the true power that everyone sought to possess lay. The same voice echoed in her mind, as if answering her questions: "You cannot do this alone." In that moment, Lilan realized that she had chosen the harder path. But she was not ready to face this challenge alone. She decided to follow this deep feeling that she needed support. She looked around, her eyes never leaving the dark gateway, where the shadows were gathering strangely, as if waiting for someone to open the dark expanse. Then, another figure appeared before her, someone she knew well. It was Daniel, the mysterious warrior she had met in the Shadow World. He looked slightly different this time, as if he

carried something new in his features. He appeared more determined, as though his character had changed in some way from what he had experienced in this world. "Lilan," he said in a calm voice, "You are not alone here." "Daniel!" Lilan exclaimed, surprised to see him. "How did you get here?" "I came to help you," he replied simply. "The shadows are not just dark forces; they are also a reflection of what is within us. And with this, you are not alone in the battle. It's time for you to gather everyone." "What do you mean?" Lilan asked curiously. "It means you can't close these doors by yourself," Daniel said firmly. "You've discovered your power, but you need someone to support you. Each world contains

what the others need, and each of us carries the keys to our world. You must gather the different powers so we can seal the doors completely." "So, what should we do?" Lilan asked as she gazed at the dark gateway before her. "First, we'll search for others who have the power we need. The battle will be long, but we'll face the shadows together," Daniel said, then added, "Not only because we want to close the gateway, but because we want to preserve and protect the realms." Lilan smiled, despite the challenges ahead. She knew that the path before her would be filled with danger, but she also knew that this time, she would not be alone. She had a strong ally, and she now had a goal greater than ever before.

The war had begun, and the truth she had discovered was not just the knowledge of the power of shadows, but the realization that shadows were part of life, part of anyone who faces their own challenges. Yet, she also knew that light could face shadows, as long as there were those who resisted. As Daniel stood beside her, Lilan felt that her journey had not yet ended. It had only just begun .

As Daniel stood beside her, Lilan felt something changing within her. The mysterious power she had discovered grew clearer, as if it had become an inseparable part of her. She knew that this power was not just a weapon; it was a tool to understand the world surrounded by shadows and to uncover the truth hidden

behind every door. Her gaze turned toward the dark gateway looming in the distance, and the brilliance of the light around her grew more in contrast with the darkness. The gateway seemed like the greatest challenge, as if every realm had accumulated within this dark threshold. "Are you ready?" Daniel asked quietly, though there was something behind his words that hinted at concern. "Is there another choice?" Lilan replied with a slight smile, though her heart was racing. This was the test she had to face, but she realized that what this world held was not just a battle against shadows; it was also a battle against herself, against the doubts and difficult choices that still occupied her mind. Lilan took another

step toward the gateway, and at that moment, the entire place shook as though the world itself was watching her move. She had to overcome the fear and face the darkness with everything she had. With Daniel by her side, and knowing others would come to help her, she began to feel hope return. As she got closer, an unexpected image appeared before them: a shadowy figure, its features unclear, but it knew them. It seemed like part of the place itself, as if it were an ancient presence from another world. "You've finally arrived," said the deep voice that emerged from the shadow, with a tone that seemed to echo from the depths of time and space. "But this is not the end of the journey; it's the beginning of the

true war." "Who are you?" Daniel asked cautiously. "I was the first guardian of the gateway, and I watched the world divide between light and shadow. In this world, there are no fixed boundaries between darkness and light, between truth and illusion. You will find that each door has its key, but the doors that open to the shadows may carry purposes deeper than mere survival." "Do you mean that the gateway before us is not just the beginning?" Lilan asked, realizing that this conversation held keys to other truths yet to be revealed. "Exactly," the voice replied, and then it seemed to draw closer as an image of a towering man appeared, half dark, half radiant. "You now know that you are not the

only one seeking to open these doors. Others are striving to control this balance, and if you do not find the power you need to defend the realms, everything will fall into shadow." The words of this being were mysterious, but they carried a real warning. Lilan knew that every step she took now could change the course of events irreparably. She was faced with choices that couldn't be undone, and she would have to bear the consequences of what she decided. "How can we defeat this being?" Daniel asked, directing the question to the figure speaking. "You will not defeat me easily," the being replied. "You will not find the power just outside; you will find it within yourselves, within your hearts and souls. If

there is hope for success, it is tied to uniting forces that can only be gathered through your unity. But remember, every decision made in this world comes at a price." The earth around them began to tremble more, and the light faded while the shadows grew. Time was moving quickly, and every moment counted in the fate of the realms. "We will not let you control this world!" Lilan said firmly, holding the power of the shadows she had discovered within her. At the same time, that power intertwined with the light, as if responding to every word she spoke. The being smiled with a deep look, as though reading her thoughts. "If this is your desire, prepare for what's to come. For the true battle has begun, and once

it starts... there is no turning back." Lilan and Daniel stood together, united in one goal: to close the gateway again and keep the realms from falling into the shadows of chaos. The next stage of their journey was filled with challenges and difficult choices, but they no longer had time for regrets. The decisive battle had just begun, a battle for hope, for the future. And as the shadows grew around them, with every new step, Lilan felt a power inside her greater than ever before .

As Lilan and Daniel advanced toward the heart of darkness, the ground beneath their feet grew more fragile, as if the world itself was collapsing around them. But within Lilan's heart, there was a new certainty, the certainty

that she would not face this darkness alone, and that there was something inside her greater than any threat. The gateway was before them now, as dark and deep as it had been at first, but something was different this time. The aura surrounding it had begun to shrink, as if its power was weakening. With every step they took, Lilan felt the intertwining of light and shadow within her more intensely, as if a part of the shadows had become a part of her. She now understood what the being had meant when it said that power lies within, in the balance between light and darkness. "Are you ready?" Daniel asked, approaching her and gazing at the gateway before them. "Yes," Lilan replied with confidence, though

her heart was racing. "It's time." As she approached the gateway, the darkness grew denser, but this time, she did not feel fear. On the contrary, she felt that the light she carried within her began to shine, surrounding her as though it were a shield protecting her. The darkness around her trembled, as if resisting this light. "Remember," Daniel said seriously, "every step will be decisive. Don't think the gateway will calm or close easily. But if you're strong enough, you'll find a way to stop it." Lilan looked at the gateway, then at Daniel, smiling calmly. "If this is the battle we're facing, we'll finish it together." At that moment, their powers united, and they both felt an immense surge of energy, blending shadows and light.

Her soul resonated with the place, as if every part of this world was responding to her, supporting her in what she was about to do. A moment of silence, then a surge of power within Lilan, and it surged toward the gateway. The darkness began to unravel gradually, and the light began to reshape the world around her. With every passing second, the gateway shrank, as if it were being forced back into its original place, to the place where it had started. But at that moment, the dark being appeared before them, standing like a wall of shadows. "You always knew this wouldn't be easy," it said in a deep, terrifying voice. "But you think balance is the solution?" "Balance is what keeps the world alive," Lilan replied

confidently. "And you don't have the right to break this balance." "But I have the power!" the being screamed, as shadows began to gather around it rapidly, as if they were about to consume everything. Moments of intense battle ensued, where Lilan and Daniel fought the dark force together, each one empowering the other, as if they were becoming one. This battle was not only with the dark being but also with the shadows that tried to seize their souls. With every strike, Lilan felt a greater power within her, the strength that had been hidden in the shadows of difficult times. In the decisive moment, when all the dark forces were about to swallow them, Lilan managed to direct the light she had discovered within

her toward the heart of the dark being. A beam of pure light pierced the darkness, creating a massive explosion. Suddenly, the being began to melt into the light, while the shadows scattered and faded, as if they were merely a vague memory. At that moment, the barrier between the realms shattered, and the gateway began to close for good. The darkness retreated, and the light reshaped the scene around them until the gateway was nothing more than a distant memory, one of the secrets of ancient realms that was about to be forgotten. Then, Lilan and Daniel stood there, breathing heavily, as the surroundings gradually calmed. The world had regained its balance, and the realms had been pulled away

from the edge of chaos. "We did it," Lilan said quietly, looking at Daniel, a feeling of victory filling her heart. "Yes, but that doesn't mean it's over," Daniel replied with a deep look. "Every door can open again, but today we've preserved the balance. And we will continue to protect it." Lilan smiled, feeling that she was not alone in this world, that there was always someone to support her, no matter the shadows trying to take control. Both of them knew that with every victory comes a new challenge, but they were ready for it, because they had learned that darkness can only persist when everyone chooses to live in its fear. In the end, Lilan became a symbol of hope, of preserving the balance between light

**and darkness, and always searching for the
light in the darkest times .**

Conclusion

And so, the chapters of the story have been closed, And the clouds of the end have dissipated from the path. The light returned to illuminate the heavy darkness, And the shadows lifted from the ailing soul. Lilan stood between two worlds, Holding a dream in one hand, and pain in the other. She learned that balance in existence is the secret of life, and the treasure of immortality. The journey was not just a battle, But a lesson that light loves the shadows, And strength is not in swords, But in the heart when it faces fear. The gate was closed, but its echo lives on in time, in silence, and it fades away. And the tale of the shadows

**continues to wait For another adventurer to
carry fate. To every heart lost in the dark,
Remember that light is born from dreams, And
at the end of the journey, we leave a trace In a
world between light and rain .**

Lilani: A Prisoner in the Gate of Shadows

The writer Sadjia, born in 2006 in Algeria, in the Wilaya of Tougourt, Témachine Municipality, is a dedicated student specializing in mathematics. She has won many awards and has had the privilege of teaching children at the "Center for Skills" language school, as well as offering tutoring lessons. Additionally, she has worked as a self-motivation coach and handwriting improvement instructor.



مديرة الدار: رزان محمد كليب