

TEEN'S MATERIALISTIC WISHES GO HILARIOUSLY AWRY IN KIMBERLY JONES' NEW NOVEL FOR YOUNG READERS

A random act of kindness brings unintended and sometimes hilarious consequences to a materialistic teenager in ***The Genie Scheme*** (McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster), Kimberly K. Jones' new novel for kids ages 8-12. *The Genie Scheme* follows on the heels of Jones' debut novel, *Sand Dollar Summer*, a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age and one of *Booklist's* Top Ten First Novels for Youth.

When eighth-grader Janna Danner uses her allowance to buy a hat for a homeless bag lady, the woman turns out to be a genie. Lo and behold, Janna is her new master! With no limits on the number of wishes, material girl Janna immediately asks for new clothes, an iPod loaded with Beatles tunes, and a take-out order from McDonald's. But not so fast—genies can't create new stuff out of thin air, so everything Janna wishes for has to come from someone else. Back go the clothes. Poof! Back goes the iPod. Poof! And the food—well, suffice it to say, the food has been eaten and cannot be returned. Janna has a lot to learn about genies and wish-making, and Eugenie, her genie, is not exactly forthcoming with advice.

Luckily, Janna is a good person at heart, and after her best friend, Albert, learns that Janna “accidentally” cheated on a math test, he and Eugenie begin to help Janna get her priorities straight. As her wishes multiply and her compassion grows, Janna learns important lessons about what really matters.

The Genie Scheme, www.geniescheme.com, takes a lighthearted look at what happens when a girl gets everything she desires—and then some. Young readers will find themselves wishing for more from this talented author.

In a starred review, *School Library Journal* called Kimberly K. Jones' previous novel, *Sand Dollar Summer*, “a first-rate debut.” It's the compelling, lyrical story of self-possessed

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Annelise, whose single mother moves the family to Maine for the summer after Mom is injured in a car accident. Annelise is terrified by the ocean and fiercely protective of her younger brother, who has selective mutism. As Mom struggles to recover, secrets from the past begin to spill out. Jones has also published short stories, essays, and articles. She lives with her family and three cats in a log cabin in Vermont.

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The Genie Scheme

By Kimberly K. Jones

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