



Finnikin of the Rock (The Lumatere Chronicles Book 1)

By Melina Marchetta

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Finnikin was only a child during the five days of the unspeakable, when the royal family of Lumatere were brutally murdered, and an imposter seized the throne. Now a curse binds all who remain inside Lumatere's walls, and those who escaped roam the surrounding lands as exiles, persecuted and despairing, dying by the thousands in fever camps. In a narrative crackling with the tension of an imminent storm, Finnikin, now on the cusp on manhood, is compelled to join forces with an arrogant and enigmatic young novice named Evanjalin, who claims that her dark dreams will lead the exiles to a surviving royal child and a way to pierce the cursed barrier and regain the land of Lumatere. But Evanjalin's unpredictable behavior suggests that she is not what she seems—and the startling truth will test Finnikin's faith not only in her, but in all he knows to be true about himself and his destiny.

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Finnikin of the Rock (The Lumatere Chronicles Book 1) By Melina Marchetta Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #139474 in eBooks
- Model: FBA-1284756
- Published on: 2010-03-30
- Released on: 2010-04-06
- Format: Kindle eBook
- Dimensions: .10" h x .10" w x .10" l, .0 pounds

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up-Before the "five days of the unspeakable," Finnikin's homeland of Lumatere was a peaceful and plentiful kingdom. Then the royal family was murdered and a puppet regime rose to power. The people were divided: some escaped into exile in the other kingdoms of Skuldenore, while the rest were trapped inside a curse shrouding the kingdom walls. A decade later, Finnikin and his guardian roam the land recording stories and trying to improve conditions for the exiles. A beguiling novice named Evanjalin, who shares the dreams of the people trapped inside Lumatere, joins their small party. She claims that Balthazar, the true heir to the throne, is alive. Rejuvenated by hope, the group embarks on a series of adventures in their quest to reunite the exiles and rebuild Lumatere under Balthazar's rule. With this novel (Candlewick, 2010), Melina Marchetta has crafted a world that is both fanciful and frighteningly real, with parallels to today's civil wars and refugee camps. It is a dense tale that builds to a stirring climax after Evanjalin's real identity is revealed. Jeffrey Cummings convincingly varies his voice to portray a range of ages, accents, and emotions in this impressive reading. Listeners may struggle to keep up with the book's many characters and to grasp the geography of Finnikin's travels (the print edition includes helpful maps). It takes patience to get acclimated to this mystical fantasy, but those who stick with it are in for a rare treat.-Amy V. Pickett, Ridley High School, Folsom, PA (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review In her latest title, Marchetta, author of the 2009 Michael L. Printz Award winner, *Jellicoe Road*, steps deftly into the fantasy genre. Ten years before the story's start, assassins crept into the kingdom of Lumatere and murdered the royal family, with the possible exception of Balthazar, heir to the throne. As rumors circulated that Balthazar survived, a mystic cast a curse that created a magical barrier around the kingdom and prevented thousands who had fled from returning. Marchetta focuses her tale on 19-year-old Finnikin, the son of a former royal guard, who is serving in exile as an apprentice to Sir Topher, a former advisor to the murdered king. While aiding refugees, they meet a young novice who can enter others' dreams and claims that Balthazar has chosen Finnikin to "take his people home." As Finnikin gathers forces to return to the kingdom, intrigue and double-dealing ensue. The skillful world building includes just enough detail to create a vivid sense of place, and Marchetta maintains suspense with unexpected story arcs. It is the achingly real characters, though, and the relationships that emerge through the captivating dialogue that drive the story. Filled with questions about the impact of exile and the human need to belong, this standout fantasy quickly reveals that its real magic lies in its accomplished writing. Grades 6-10. --Lynn Rutan

Review

"The world of this book is dark and beautiful and utterly believable; and, as I've come to expect of Marchetta's work, the characters are wonderfully complex. Here is an author who writes fantasy as well as she writes realism — and in the case of Melina Marchetta, that's high praise, indeed!" — Kristin Cashore, author of *GRACELING* and *FIRE* — Quote

"A tremendous achievement; a wonderful story full of vivid characters and landscapes. . . . Spellbinding and fantastic." — SYDNEY MORNING HERALD — Quote

"A hauntingly beautiful fantasy allegory. . . . A daring departure from Marchetta's previous books, and it works brilliantly." — THE CANEBERRA TIMES — Quote

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Auten:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be revise about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This Finnikin of the Rock (The Lumatere Chronicles Book 1) is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

Maureen Guzman:

Reading a publication can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book and so. There are a lot of reasons why people love it. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new data. When you read a guide you will get new information simply because book is one of numerous ways to share the information or perhaps their idea. Second, examining a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you studying a book especially fictional works book the author will bring you to imagine the story how the character types do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this Finnikin of the Rock (The Lumatere Chronicles Book 1), you are able to tells your family, friends as well as soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire average, make them reading a book.

Barbara Bell:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always aim to and must have the time or they will get lots of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not only a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read will be Finnikin of the Rock (The Lumatere Chronicles Book 1).

Rosalie Dietrich:

In this particular era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of many books in the top record in your reading list is definitely Finnikin of the Rock (The Lumatere Chronicles Book 1). This book that is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upwards and review this book you can get many advantages.

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