



LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Maresi** **The Red Abbey Chronicles** by Maria Turttschaninoff

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.

Rose Roberts

This book is excellent. At the start it is a bit slow, but when you get into it - **WOW!!!** I got a third through and couldn't stop reading. ***I finished it in a day! I loved it.***

'Maresi' is just one of those books that is just so original - haven't read one like it. It is a fantasy book; it has all powerful things that are like gods.

Maresi came to the Red Abbey in the Hunger Winter. She is a novice who has not yet been chosen by a sister. When a novice is chosen by a sister, they help the sister until it is the novices turn to become a sister - then they take over the sister's position.

Jai comes to the island, and Maresi becomes her friend. Jai's father is both angry and determined to get her, after she escaped to the island. The whole of the Red Abbey will have to combine their efforts and stop him and his crew. Maresi finds herself being called by one side of the all-powerful God, and the scariest one at that. Maresi has to confront her fears, and have the courage not to give in.

PUSHKIN CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Jasmine Wright

Thomas Cowley School

An amazing, gripping book. Set on an Island inhabited only by women where a young girl, Maresi lives at an abbey. The Abbey is peaceful then Jai arrives and with her comes danger...

Personally I think 'Maresi' was a great book, unusual but I love how Maria portrayed the main Maresi and Jai and how she described the Abbey in detail really making it come alive. The book is set on an Island only inhabited by women segregated from men and they're safe until Jai arrives and the peace that once ruled over the Abbey disappeared. Jai's father, Sarjan is a character that we all despise for everything that happened to Jai but the way the sisters come together to try and defeat him is amazing. I couldn't put the book down; Turtschaninoff really hooks her readers! A book worth reading for its creativity and femininity.

Jenny Ilsley

'Maresi' is about a small island upon which lies a large abbey, full of women. Many people on the mainland believe that the abbey is only a myth, but when Maresi travelled there she knew it was not. The island was a peaceful, calm place where no men were allowed to tread, but all that changes when Jai arrives. Jai comes from a troubled background – from a place where her father ruled her life. Her father will stop at nothing to ensure she is killed (so as to restore the family's dignity). When the men launch an attack on the island Maresi and Jai both have to face their deepest fears.

Maresi is the main character in this book, she is a kind natured girl but afraid of the Crone (and what it might do to her). She finds a lot of comfort in the 'treasure room', a room full of books, she loves knowledge and learning.

Emily Kirby

I highly recommend this book because it is thrilling, exciting and very enjoyable. When Jai arrives on the island Maresi has to teach her about the islands way of life.

Jai has just begun to get used to the abbey when some men come to the island and men are forbidden to set foot on the island. With the men there Maresi and

especially Jai are in mortal danger. The majority of the book teaches you about the abbey's way of life and is quite slow but keep reading because the end is worth it. I am looking forward to the next book.

Bella Ettery

Part of the Red Abbey Chronicles, 'Maresi' is about feminism and becoming mature. The many mysteries within this book leave you guessing and you will often find yourself turning yet another page when you promised that you would just finish your sentence! Finding out about each girl's past kept me awake at night and I was always anticipating the next tale. Jai and Unai's violent father casts a dark shadow over all of the characters in this book and it shows how one person can make such an impact. Maresi's past life also drives her to finding her faith and what she wants to do with her life.

I really enjoyed 'Maresi' and thought that it had a great plot. Every now and then, I still find myself thinking about Maresi, as if she is a real person. *I like how the old-fashioned concept of an abbey is mixed with a modern thing like women's rights. I would recommend this to someone who is daunted by reading long books as it is only about 250 pages long. As it is quite gory, I would say it's for people 12+. My favourite aspect of this book is how realistic it is. Overall, I would give it *****!*

Charlie Upchurch, age 12

I love the way the book slowly reveals Jai's story, it makes it impossible to put down. I really enjoyed reading 'Maresi' and I am excited about the next Red Abbey Chronicles book.

'Maresi' is a young girl who was shipped to the Red Abbey on the island of Menos because her family couldn't feed her. Maresi is living as one of the abbey novices when Jai arrives.

Quiet and weak, Jai befriends Maresi and follows her around while she finds her feet. The novices wonder why Jai has so many scars, and why she mutters the same name over and over in her sleep. As time passes and Maresi and Jai get closer, secrets come out about Jai's traumatic past. But there are more problems to face: will Maresi escape the Crone who calls her name? Will Jai escape her ever-searching father?

My favourite character is Jai. Mysterious, brave, lost and afraid, she is a key character in this book. I love the way the book slowly reveals Jai's story, it makes it impossible to put down.

'Maresi' is a well written book. I loved the story; it's very deep and also ties in with what happens in real life, although some parts are really gruesome. I liked the idea of a safe haven where girls live off the land in a peaceful environment, surviving on their own, and loved the Maiden, Mother and Crone, but I didn't like that all the women were good and all the men were bad. The story would have been better with a few men who were kind and good. I really enjoyed reading 'Maresi' and I am excited about the next Red Abbey Chronicles book.

<http://www.coolkidscreations.net/>

Katie Humphreys, age 13

'Maresi' is a thrilling book which makes you think about friendship in a different way. I found it SO gripping from cover to cover, and I loved the suspense at the end of every chapter! I enjoyed this book because the characters were so believable and it was as if I was following Maresi everywhere she went. It was so descriptive and it was so easy to imagine where she was or what she was doing. This book is definitely one to read if you are the sort of person that likes dark and thrilling books that take you on an unput-downable journey. I would give this book 4.9 stars!!