

THE RED ABBEY CHRONICLES
MARIA TURTSCHANINOFF

Maria Turtchaninoff (b. 1977) is known for crafting lyrical, historically inspired fantasy stories starring strong female protagonists. In addition to J.R.R. Tolkien, she counts Philip Pullman, Ursula K. Le Guin and C.S. Lewis among her favourite authors. She is a two-time winner of the Society of Swedish Literature Prize and a nominee for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. In 2014 she won the Finlandia Junior Prize, the most prestigious award given to a children's or YA book in Finland, for *Maresi* (Schildts & Söderströms), the first book in the three-part Red Abbey Chronicles.



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The celebrated new fantasy classic set in a community of women



WINNER OF THE
FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE

BOOK I, MARESI
(Schildts & Söderströms, 2014, 180 pp.)

THE RED ABBEY, located on the island of Menos, is a refuge and a community for women and girls. At the Red Abbey everyone is given the freedom to pursue and develop their own talents and areas of interest. Maresi, the main character and narrator, has realized that reading and learning are the two things closest to her heart. ONE DAY JAI, a frightened girl, arrives on the island. It is gradually revealed that Jai is on the run from her father's senseless fury; she has seen her sister get buried alive for speaking to a young man, and now her father and a crew of thugs are after her. The bravery of Maresi and her friends is put to the ultimate test when they have to fight to defend both Jai and their community.

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GERMAN RIGHTS SOLD TO HEYNE!

“ I was blown away by Maresi, quite simply. Maria Turtchaninoff has written an incredibly original, vivid and gripping story with appeal not only for YA readers but far beyond. And embedded in the story is a passionate feminist voice that I strongly believe will resonate with a wide variety of readers. I’ve no doubt that Maresi and The Red Abbey Chronicles as a whole will become classics of the genre.

– ADAM FREUDENHEIM, PUBLISHER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR,
PUSHKIN PRESS/PUSHKIN CHILDREN’S BOOKS

“ Maresi takes the reader into a world full of wonder. And, most importantly, it tells us about the magical power of friendship. A truly enchanting story.

– STEFANIE BRÖSIGKE, JUNIOR EDITOR, HEYNE VERLAG, GERMANY

BOOK II, NAONDEL
(Schildts & Söderströms 2016)

THE PREQUEL, *Naondel*, tells the story of the First Sisters: Kabira, Garai, Orseola, Estegi, Sulani, Daera, Clarás and Iona. The women meet while imprisoned in a harem run by Ishkan, a dangerous and narcissistic young man who has obtained access to the well of Anji, a source of power in the region. By banding together in spite of steep differences and initial mistrust, the women are able to flee Ishkan’s harem and set out to establish the Red Abbey.

BOOK III
(Schildts & Söderströms)

THE SEQUEL, the third book in the Red Abbey Chronicles, will tell the story of what happens to Maresi after she leaves the Red Abbey – both the difficulties she encounters as she struggles to set up a school in the oppressed province of Rovas and the prejudices she has to overcome. It is a story of the difference real knowledge makes in people’s lives, and how it can open windows to the outside world and offer true freedom.



RIGHTS SOLD

THE RED ABBEY
CHRONICLES
MARESI
Original publisher:
FINLAND, Schildts & Söderströms
DENMARK, Turbine
FINLAND, Tammi
GERMANY, Random House/Heyne
ROMANIA, Editura Univers
SWEDEN, Berghs
WORLD ENGLISH, Pushkin Press

PRIZES
FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE 2014
NOMINATED FOR THE ASTRID
LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD 2014
SOCIETY OF SWEDISH LITERATURE
PRIZE 2013 and 2010
NOMINATED FOR THE FINLANDIA
JUNIOR PRIZE 2009

READING MATERIAL

MARESI:
FULL ENGLISH TEXT
SWEDISH EDITION
FINNISH EDITION

NAONDEL:
ENGLISH SYNOPSIS

“ Fierce and gentle, violent and tender, poetic and full of action — not one or the other, but both. Maresi instills a sense of will, hope and optimism in its reader and encourages her to walk towards the light without fear.

– FINLANDIA JUNIOR
PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT,
DIRECTOR JOHANNA
VUOKSENMAA