



Sun Catcher

Sheila Rance

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On her 13th birthday Maia, who has been brought up by Tareth, the weaver and warrior who she has always believed is her father, falls into an adventure that will take her on a perilous journey to a kingdom poisoned by bitterness and jealousies. A kingdom that she must save. Tareth is no ordinary weaver - the silk he weaves sings of destiny and danger, of Maia's future. Because she is no ordinary girl either. She has always been the flame-headed outsider among the Cliff Dwellers, but she doesn't want to listen to the song of the silk, or to the terrifying words of the village Watcher. Guarding her secret, denying her future, Maia steps into places she has never explored where she'll encounter mercenaries, spies, friends and enemies. And where she will face her destiny as a Sun Catcher.

Exotically located in the Far East in an age when trading and communities were gaining more exposure to a wider world than ever before, this debut novel is beautifully, richly written, thoroughly researched and a pleasure to read.

Sun Catcher Details

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Author : Sheila Rance

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From Reader Review Sun Catcher for online ebook

Jules Goud says

A very interesting start.

My biggest problem? Maia is supposed to 13.

Huh? The girl on the cover is most definitely not 13. These adventures that she is having? I would put her at the age of 14, maybe 15, even 16. When I was reading, that was the age vibe that I got.

So, Maia has a secret life that she didn't even know about. She is a Sun Catcher. However, she doesn't want to be. She wants to be a Story Teller or maybe a Weaver. But, she is an outsider. The cliff dwellers don't really like her or her father because they came to them when Maia was really young. She is friends with the Lizard people too. So, that makes her different from everyone else.

Maia doesn't want to be a Sun Catcher. She sees all the bad stuff and the way that people are disappearing from her life because of it and she wants no part in catching the sun. Can't say I blame her, either. She just wants to be a Story Teller and that is that. She is smart too, especially when she is trying to best Razel, her arch-nemesis (maybe). She also befriends a lizard boy named Kodo which is something that the others would never do. She is also afraid. She is afraid of what the sun will do to her, the sun-deeps, the Wulf-kin. She needs to learn how to accept those fears and not have them hinder her.

We get a bunch of different perspectives, which I enjoyed. We even get some of the bad guys perspective and that gives us a chance to see just how desperate they are. I would like to see a little bit more of Razel's perspective though. We never really get a chance to see inside his head even though he pops up a lot in the story.

The plot was pretty good. We get enough information and such so that we aren't lost. We also get lots of fighting scenes. I liked the fact that we got to see a bunch of different people coming from different tribes (that is what I'm calling them; kingdoms just doesn't feel right). We get to see how each one lives differently from the other. The book had nice flow and I can see the "Game of Thrones" appeal.

An interesting start to a Lord of the Rings/Game of Thrones type novel for younger readers.

Linda Todd says

Wow, this book blow my wee mind loved this book. Amazing story couldn't put the book down I craved every word and was left wanting more. The characters where exceptional and well thought out the story lines fit perfectly with each of the characters. The main character Maia is she a witch or the lost princess or something else its up to you to guess which. A mind fast track ride and you will love every minute of it. So please go get this book you will love it to I am hoping there will be more of these stories to come from the wonderful author Sheila Rance. This fabulous piece of literature was a great read my heart felt thanks goes to the author Sheila Rance and also for the wonderful privilege of reading her wonderful book. So with that said keep smiling and happy reading to all with love from wee me.

XX

Fatima Moses says

Sun Catcher Sheila Rance

'It grows colder in the darkness. Just as the land grows cold in the dark of wolf-walk...'

Maia, daughter of the silk Weaver, is swept up in a quest. While the silk sings of her destiny, Maia is on a dangerous journey to find the long hidden element. The sun-stone. But who could she trust along the way? Is Tareth her real father? Is Razeek weed-boy or Storm Chaser? Is Kodo Lizard boy or Untouchable? Is Elin her sister or Death Bringer?

I loved this book because it contained action and adventure.

My favourite character was Maia, the Sun Catcher. She never gave up to save the land from darkness. I liked this book because it had detail all along the book which kept me reading on and turning the page to see the next bit of the story.

I thought it was a real page-turner.

This book is a book in trilogy.

I cannot wait to see the next book in trilogy. Sheila Rance is currently writing the second book Storm Chaser.

Mark says

Nice, light-hearted recess from my usual reads, though not a page-turner as a quick-read. Almost in autopilot.

Lucy says

One of the best books I have EVER read. Would recommend it to anyone xxxx

Radford Secondary Library says

A sweeping magical reality adventure inspired by the Bronze Age Far East, in which Maia undertakes a dangerous quest to find her place as a Sun Catcher and saviour of her people. On her 13th birthday Maia, who has been brought up by Tareth, the weaver and warrior who she has always believed is her father, falls into an adventure that will take her on a perilous journey to a kingdom poisoned by bitterness and jealousies. A kingdom that she must save.

Marley Theobald says

To be perfectly honest, this book didn't live up to my expectations for it.

The story took a long time to get going and I really struggled to finish it. When I did I felt that the book was ended on too much of a cliff hanger, so much so that it was incredibly frustrating.

It might just be that this book isn't to my taste but I personally can't see what all the hype is about. The book might be enjoyable for adults but it is very slow moving for a young person.

To me, it felt like the pacing was wrong and everything started slowly but it was then rushed.

I was given this book and told that it was 'excellent' but I didn't have this same opinion.

Everyone is entitled to their own point of view but for me this book was slow moving and predictable.

Tim Roast says

At first glance upon receiving this novel I was impressed. The cover was glossy and beautiful. Flicking through the book too revealed lovely pictures heading up each chapter.

The story was equally impressive. Maia lives in a land of cliff dwellers with her father the crippled-weaver Tareth. Together they arrive there as outsiders, plucked from the sea, but are accepted into the community. Alongside them are other communities such as those that look after the lizards, the Marsh Lords with their horses, the traders etc.

Then slowly bits of Maia's past and future are revealed. She is the designated sun catcher in a land without sun and must rescue that place from the rule of the evil queen and king.

And so the quest is set in this, although first part of a trilogy, completely self-contained story. Reading the book what came across was a love of nature what with the animals such as the leopard, eagle, lizard and moths that adorn the cover. Plus the animals have names, and the relationships with the humans are close, together with a touch of magic.

I can definitely see why the author is being hyped up so much by her publishers. A brilliant debut.

Jenna says

Ok this I was a ok book. But it's kinda predictable, in some ways and is kind of typical, didn't REALLY strike me. But I loved, no...ADORED the pictures, they were and are amazing and Incredibly detailed and beautiful , I envy.

I was kinda waiting for there to be some kind of romance and I was disappointed that there wasn't any, really. But the setting in native America (I'm assuming) and well written, I loved the idea of sun catchers, eagles, woman warriors, feathers in hair, cheetahs and the use of old language.

I was sad that she shaved off her hair, I thought it kind of made her HER, she looks like a hedgehog in all of the short hair drawings.

But I wanted Elin to die, she didn't because Maia said she didn't what to be a 'death bringer' but she is (Uretha dude, i dont have the book with me at this piont)and many of the people around her, including her farther have all killed people.

But I am annoyed by this term because when I hear it I think of the Valkyrie from skulduggery pleasant and that other chick, the wanna-be's science experiment, so when they referred to Elin as that I had a image of her with BLACK (all black, whites and everything) eyes and having shadows twisting around her like angry snakes, while she's raising off the ground of a creepy grave yard with the mist and everything and spooky gravestones lying around. Which she isn't, she's like a teen (i think, cause I thought Maia is, like 13 at the start, because they about that age weren't they when they were officially a adult, or maybe in thinking of something else, but only a few years, but they don't mention how long, she's there and says that Elin looked 'ABOUT HER AGE')

I thought becoming blind was kind of harsh, don't you think, if she can CATCH the SUN, WHY can't she have magic sunglasses or have a genetic gene sunglasses, like seriously? Is that too much? But I suppose they needed to have something to be the source of doubt, because if she just excepted that she was the 'Sun Catcher'. And as nemesis, the Greek/roman god of revenge said in the mark of Athena, "Good luck is a sham. With true success comes sacrifice" (all the pj fans, don't go check if my quote is write, because I'm pretty sure I got the wording wrong, but I got the main idea right)

Diana says

Ich bin begeistert. Da hat es doch tatsächlich mal wieder eine Autorin geschafft eine Fantasygeschichte in einem Buch fertig zu schreiben. Danke dafür!!

Und dann auch noch so eine gute Geschichte. Super schön zu lesen und spannend bis zum Ende.

Maia ist eine Außenseiterin, denn sie ist die Einzige in der Gegend mit roten Haaren. Und nicht nur dass macht sie anders. Sie wurde vor einigen Jahren mit ihrem Vater, Tareth, angespührt und gehört eigentlich nicht zur Gemeinschaft. Ihr Vater ist ein verkrüppeltes Bein, besitzt allerdings die Gabe Seide zu weben und einen Adler als Gefährten. Die Seide wird in dieser Welt als eine art Wesen beschrieben, dass durch flüstern die Gedanken von Menschen manipulieren kann... oder so ähnlich... Maia fühlt sich nicht wirklich wohl. Ihr Leben scheint von anderen bestimmt und das ist so garnicht was sie möchte aber alles ändert sich an ihrem Namenstag. An dem Tag an dem sie ihren wirklichen Namen und damit ihre Bestimmung erfahren soll taucht am Strand ein fremder Krieger auf. Der zwar nach einem Zusammenstoß mit Tareth stirbt aber wo und warum war er hier? und warum weiß Tareth, dass mit dem Krieger auch ein Wolfswesen ins Land gekommen sein muss....?

Toll geschrieben! Eine runde Geschichte. Einfach schön zu lesen. Und nein es gibt keine Liebesgeschichte... zumindest nicht in der Hauptstoryline und wenn dann nur angerissen. Sehr erfrischend dass es auch mal ohne funktioniert :)

Alexandra says

Have a look at my review of this book <https://youtu.be/4lc0R46u51k>

Catherine says

An interesting concept, the idea that a woman or girl can be chosen by a rock to 'catch' the sun and 'throw' it to all corners of the land. Unfortunately, I have to admit that I just couldn't warn to the main character, Maia,

who was a typical teen I suppose, rebelling against rules, changing her mind all the time, and being rude to those who were trying to help her.

Overall, an interesting story, but not a favorite.

Noëmi Steinmann says

a really special book

Marie-Claire says

Fremde waren sie schon immer – Maia und ihr Vater Tareth, der Seidenweber, die einst an Land gespült wurden wie Strandgut und beim Klippenvolk eine neue Heimat fanden. Doch was ihr wahres Schicksal ist, erfährt Maia erst an ihrem 13. Geburtstag: Sie ist die Sonnenfängerin, die verloren geglaubte Prinzessin eines fernen Reiches. Ein Reich, das vergiftet ist von Hass und Eifersucht und das nur Maia allein retten kann. So tritt sie eine Reise an, die sie ans andere Ende ihrer Welt führen wird, durch unglaubliche Abenteuer und tödliche Gefahren. Sie wird lernen, wer ihre wahren Freunde sind und wer ihre schrecklichsten Feinde. Und sie muss sich entscheiden: Ist sie bereit, ihr Schicksal anzunehmen – auch wenn sie damit verliert, was ihr am teuersten ist?

"Das Lied der Seide" ist der erste Band der "Sonnentochter"-Trilogie von Sheila Rance.

Der Einstieg in diese Geschichte fällt stellenweise etwas schwer, da der Anfang ein Stück weit zäh zu lesen ist und die eigentlich wichtigen Ereignisse erst ab ungefähr der Hälfte des Buches beginnen. Ab da entwickelt sich die Handlung dann Schlag auf Schlag, und auch Spannung kommt immer stärker ins Spiel. Allerdings wäre ab und an ein wenig mehr Tiefe wünschenswert gewesen, da man sich die beschriebenen Szenen oftmals schwer vorstellen konnte und die Gedanken auch schon mal abdrifteten.

Die Idee hinter diesem Roman gefällt mir gut. Es stellt einmal etwas anderes im Bereich der Jugendfantasy dar und wurde eigentlich, bis auf die eine oder andere Schwäche, recht gut umgesetzt. Viele Details schaffen Authentizität und wirken keineswegs abgekupfert.

Maia ist eine interessante Protagonistin. Beim Lesen erscheint sie allerdings älter, als die im Buch genannten 13 Jahre. Aufgrund ihres Verhalten und ihrer Taten mutet sie eher wie 15 oder 16 Jahre an. Auch die anderen jugendlichen Protagonisten wirken älter, als sie es eigentlich sind.

Auch hier hätte die Autorin ein wenig mehr Farbe ins Spiel bringen lassen können, um ihre Darsteller dreidimensionaler erscheinen zu lassen, da sie oftmals recht blass erscheinen.

Trotz dieser Schwächen wusste "Das Lied der Seide" mich gut zu unterhalten, da das Potential dieser Trilogie klar erkennbar ist und nur darauf wartet, herausragend umgesetzt zu werden.

"Das Lied der Seide" ist ein sehr atmosphärischer Roman, bei dem man auf jeder Seite den Fantasycharakter verspürt und man so ein phantastisches Abenteuer geboten bekommt, das vor allem jüngeren Lesern viel Freude bereiten wird, aber auch älteren Leseratten gute Unterhaltung zu bieten weiß.

Der Schreibstil liest sich durchaus flüssig und weiß auch an den richtigen Stellen zu fesseln, sodass nach dem etwas mühsamen Einstieg, die anschließenden Seiten recht flott vergingen und man für die etwaigen langwierigen Passagen gut entschädigt wurde.

Im Großen und Ganzen ist "Das Lied der Seide" in sich abgeschlossen, jedoch sind der eine oder andere Handlungsstrang noch offen und bieten so viel Spielraum für die weiteren zwei Bände dieser Trilogie.

Fazit: Kleinere Schwächen schmälern das Lesevergnügen ein wenig, dennoch sind schöne Lesestunden garantiert.

Mel says

I thought this was beautifully written and vividly imagined, but not for me. I felt this was written in quite an old fashioned style, which worked well in terms of the story and when it was set, but I struggled with. This would be a good bridge for younger readers between mainstream fiction and classics. This made me think of Clan of the Cave Bear.
