



Naandel

Maria Turtschaninoff, Marja Kyrö (Translator)

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Palkitun Maresin itsenäinen jatko-osa Naondel palaa ajassa taaksepäin, Punaisen luostarin perustamista edeltäviin tapahtumiin.

Nuorille aikuisille suunnatussa kirjassa päähenkilöt, naiset ja tytöt kertovat kukin oman, ravisuttavan tarinansa. Kaikkia yhdistää sama kohtalo: joutuminen julman Iskanin haaremiin. Kaunis mutta säälimätön romaani vangitsee lukijan tiukkaan nyrkkiinsä, josta on vaikea ravistella itseään irti. Upeasti kirjoitetulle, intensiiviselle tekstille voi kuitenkin vain antautua.

Ensimmäisenä ääneen pääsee Kabira. Tytön elämäntehtäväksi on annettu vaalia Anjia, lähdettä, jonka suunnattoman voiman niin hyvään kuin pahaan vain hän tuntee. Hyvässä perheessä kasvanut nuori Kabira rakastuu visiirin poikaan, Iskaniin, ja huumassaan hän tulee paljastaneeksi miehelle lähteen salaiset voimat. Vallanhaluinen Iskan tajuaa heti voivansa hyödyntää lähdettä ja tyttöä omiin, paholaismaisiin tarkoituksiinsa.

Muut naiset saapuvat haaremiin kuka mistäkin syystä. Nomadiheimosta tuleva Garai on joutunut myytäväksi orjamarkkinoilla. Orseola taas kuuluu puissa elävään kansaan, unienkutojana hän pystyy vaikuttamaan toisten uniin ja niiden sisältöön. Voimakkaaseen naissoturi Sulaniin Iskanin väkivaltaisuus kohdistuu erityisen raakana. Sisarellinen yhteishenki ja tahto ei synny hetkessä, mutta naisten ja tyttöjen voima on suunnaton, kun on oikea hetki toimia.

Naondel Details

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From Reader Review Naandel for online ebook

Reta Anna Maria says

Ei tämä kyllä mikään nuortenkirja ollut, ja oikeastaan hyvä niin. Osui ja upposi, erittäin mainio kirja. Ainoastaan haittasi lopussa päähenkilöiden suuri määrä ja siitä seuraava hahmojen sekoittaminen toisiinsa.

Reetta Saine says

Huh, melkein tekisi mieli heittää aikuisten osastolle mutta ei sittenkään. Tuhannen ja yhden yön tarujen (niiden alkuperäisten) fiilistä vallan, seksin, sadismin, alistamisen, ystävyuden, puolustautumisen ja nöyryyttämisen kautta.

Maresiin tekisi mieli palata ja tutkia, kuinka nämä synkät tarinat elävät "nykynuorten" parissa saarella ja kuinka elämä jatkuukaan aina kaikesta huolimatta.

Kieli on upeaa matkatessaan vanhahtavasta sadunomaisuudesta psykologisiin itsetutkiskeluihin ja lähes poliisiraporttien kylmääväneutraaliin selostukseen.

Pituudestaan ja monimutkaisuudestaan huolimatta koukutti niin, että tuli ahmituksi päivässä.

Tatiana says

I don't think I convinced anyone to read "Maresi" earlier this year, and I probably won't convince anyone to read its prequel, which is very unfortunate. Of many YA fantasy novels published these days, this one definitely offers something different. The novel's main characters reside in a harem, and knowing that "Maresi" takes place on island where women find safe haven from oppression of men, it's no spoiler to say that women of "Naandel" hate their husband/owner/abuser/rapist and seek escape from him. This "husband" is almost cartoonishly villainous, and yet the back stories of his women and their struggle for freedom from him are a powerful thing.

Anna - Boktycke says

Ehh, I read this without knowing that this is a sequel (or actually a prequel). Anyway, it was a very good read with a lot of interesting characters. Love the settings and the writing was good. The only thing I didn't like is that the main villain is toooo evil and basically rapes every woman he encounters :/

I am going to look for the first book now :)

Anastasia Alén says

Aluksi en ollut ihan varma tykkäänkö tästä vai ei mutta kyllä tästä kehkeytyi edeltäjänsäkin vahvempi ja kauniimpi kirja. Fantasikirjallisuudessa tämänkaltainen naiskeskeisyys on harvinaista ja Turtschaninoff kirjoittaa sen loistavasti tarinaan, feminismi on läsnä muttei hyökkää vaan toteaa.

Doronike says

J?, tas tom?r bija skaisti. Kaut k?d? zi?a man pat negrib?tos ierindot šo rom?nu pie fant?zijas literat?ras, bet dr?z?k pie pasak?m. Nu t?d?m loti dr?m?m pasak?m. Katr? zi?? šis ir fant?zijas atzars, kas mani ?oti uzrun? - ja at?em mistiku, tad viss ir diezgan re?listiski.
Nevar noliegt, ka mani iepriecina, ka tas ir sievietes rakst?ts rom?ns sieviet?m bez roz? pu??iem, bet par sieviešu draudz?bu, vienot?bu, m?s?bu.

The Librarian Witch says

I just CANNOT get enough of this series!

I loved both this, and Maresi (the first in the series) in equal, yet different measure.
More books filled to bursting with strong, awesome female characters please?!

This instalment was so much darker.
So much heavier.
Filled with so much more evil and malevolence.

And I loved it!

It was such a great origin story for The Red Abbey, and I can't wait for book number three!

Vikki Patis says

Told through the perspectives of multiple women, Naandel is heartbreaking, breathtaking, and utterly feminist. It's a story of women, sisterhood, and survival.

We begin with Kabira, a young woman from a wealthy family, who guards the secret of Anji, the spring that gives life - and controls it. Kabira falls in love with Iskan, son of a powerful man in the realm, and shows him what Anji can do. Iskan's evil soon rears its head, and Kabira is terrified of what she's unleashed. But she is trapped in his web.

The years pass, and Iskan acquires a large group of women, from different corners of the world. They live together, if not in harmony, then in understanding, and soon become allies against Iskan's cruelty. Almost all of the women are subjected to his depraved sexual desires (although these aren't described in detail, they may upset some readers), and all of them are dependent on his good graces. As Iskan grows more powerful, he also becomes more paranoid, and no one is safe.

The perspectives of all of the women are beautifully written. Their different characters and experiences shine through, and each one of them carries a moral for the reader to learn. Naondel is a feminist text because it not only describes the suffering of women (at the hands of men), but it also shows the strength of the sisterhood, and how important it is for women to come together.

Naondel is the prequel to Maresi, which is now on my list to read. Turtschaninoff is an author to keep on your radar.

Emilie says

Ai miten mahtava ja jännittävä kirja! Rohkea, väkivaltainen ja naisvoittainen!

Kiinnostavat, monimuotoiset päähenkilöt ja kertojanäkökulmat pitivät otteessaan ja ylläpitivät mielenkiintoa loppuun asti. Juoni ja siinä esiintyvien naishenkilöiden elämät kietoutuivat sulavasti yhteen ja kokonaisuus oli viimeisen päälle hiottu. Fantasiaosuus oli hienovaraista ja pelkistettyä, mikä sopi mielestäni kirjan maailmaan loistavasti.

Tämä olisi tosin ollut täydellinen, jos tarinassa olisi esiintynyt edes yksi miellyttävä mieshahmo. Kirjasta tihkuva miesviha jätti vähän oudon fiiliksen ja pisti pohtimaan vaikuttimia. Muuten juoni oli upeasti punottu! Suosittelen!

Rosa says

Maria Turtschaninoffin vastikään imestynyt nuorten fantasiaromaani Naondel on kertomus naisista, jotka perustavat jo Turtschaninoffin edellisestä romaanista *Maresista* tutun Punaisen luostarin. Vaikka teos on itsenäinen jatko-osa *Maresille*, se sijoittuu aikaan ennen tätä. Luostaria perustamaan päästään vasta kirjan lopussa, ja sitä ennen tarina kertoo naisten elämästä vankeina Karenokoin visiiri Iskanin haaremissa. Iskan on paha ja vallanhimoinen ja pitää naisia ja koko valtakuntaa kynsissään maagisesta Anji-lähteestä ammentamiensa voimien avulla.

Teos on upeaa, naiskeskeistä, kaunista fantasiaa. Turtschaninoff on taidokkaasti kirjoittanut tarinalle useita eri kertojanäkökulmia, minkä huomaan olevan yhdistävä piirre monissa suosikkikirjoissani. Kokonaisuudessaan pidin kirjasta hyvin paljon mutta en sanoisi, että olin missään vaiheessa koukussa sen lukemiseen, vaikka luinkin kirjaa mielelläni. En päässyt tunnetasolla niin lähelle kirjan hahmoja kuin täydellinen lukukokemus olisi vaatinut, mutta en silti missään nimessä pidä kirjaa huonona. Suosittelen kirjaa erityisesti perinteiseen fantasiaan kyllästyneille ja yleensä muunlaista kirjallisuutta lukeville, jotka haluavat päästä fantasian makuun.

Lisää mietteitäni *Naondelista* blogissani.

Nina (Every Word A Doorway) says

3.5 stars

***Naondel* reads like a mash-up of *A Thousand Nights* and *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Like the former, it is a**

feminist testimony to the outward weakness but inward strength of women. Like the latter, it is filled with hardship, and struggles, and pain, which – balanced by the beautiful setting and writing – made this a bittersweet kind of read, both beautiful and dreadful.

Whilst marketed in the Teens & YA section on NetGalley, the content is brutal and devastating in both a psychological and physical way, and therefore unfit for a teen audience, in my opinion. Furthermore, this is a founding story, but in my estimation, the predecessor does not need to be read in order to understand the plot in this book.

When I first came across *Naondel*, I had never heard of this author or her works. The premise, however, sparked my curiosity, for it reminded me a lot of *A Thousand Nights* by E.K. Johnston, a novel I had adored. The impression hadn't been misplaced. If you didn't like either of the two works mentioned in the intro, then you probably won't enjoy this one, either. ***Naondel* is slow-going, descriptive, and introspective.** If there is action, then it is either a verbal exchange of blows or conniving schemes. The focus is usually less on what is happening but on the emotions it evokes in the all-female protagonists.

***Naondel* is told through several perspectives, which was one or two too many for my liking.** Naturally, I formed the strongest bonds with the first two women whose points of view depicted the ordeal the women suffered at the hands of Iskan ak Honta-che, the grand Vizier to the Sovereign Prince. After the third or fourth point of view, the women started blurring in my mind. Turtschaninoff succeeded in creating diverse voices, but this was enough. **The women, in whose minds the reader plunges, are fleshed out, but with so much pain, it was difficult to bring myself to care for yet another and another and another character.** And pain there is plenty. The women are treated like decorations, like playthings, like sex objects to be used and disposed of. After a while, it was hard to keep going, to be honest. **Though I can see why Turtschaninoff chose to display an intense rape culture, I got tired of it, as almost every woman was raped by the villain.** Perhaps it is their similar fates that made the characters blend together after a while, in spite of their strong characterizations. Rape was not the worst atrocity some of the women in this books suffered at the hands of the villain, and so, not few played with the thought of greeting death with open arms.

"Poison," she gasped. I scoffed.

"Why should I poison you? I will drink it first, if you like."

I have since wondered about what she said. That perhaps it was not an accusation, but a request.

Iskan ak Honta-che is a narcissist, if not a psychopath, at his core – power-hungry, oppressive, paranoid, aloof, lacking of a single drop of empathy. Women, for him, are means to an end, used to satisfy his sexual needs or to breed him heirs. He steps into the female lead's (the first POV we meet) life with an air of seductive charm, as most psychopaths do, and then slowly invades every single aspect of her being, rendering her to a useless puppet on a string. **Though Iskan serves as a symbol of male dominance, he was a one-dimensional villain.** He does have other sides than his cruelty, for example being extremely knowledgeable or a good schemer, but I wanted a morally grey line and I didn't receive it. Iskan is so thoroughly corrupted by dark powers – the only magical aspect in the book – that he is pure evil down to his bone. **The catch of the book is that, though he believes women to be beneath him, he hands them the power they require to fight back.** The more cruel he becomes, the more the women stick together, and a pack of wolves is always stronger than one lonely bear, no matter how big and strong he may be.

My master did not guard his words in the slightest. Not even admission of high treason was dangerous when only disclosed in the presence of women. We were nobody at all. As unimportant as grass on the ground. As interchangeable.

In the face of the despicable content, the beautiful aspects of the book almost went unnoticed. **Naandel excites with some excellent Japanese-inspired world-building.** From the traditions to the clothing to the food, Turschaninoff thought of every last detail to enrich the world she had created. **The simple yet elegant writing further underpinned the beautiful setting.** I was surprised by the flow of the writing, for translated books have been disappointing to me in the past, but this novel's translation seemed to have an effortless flow.

Naandel is a memorable and powerful feminist novel, though slow-going and at times painful, even tedious, to read. It is about power, about oppression, and about the greed and ignorance of one. It is about defiance, about suffering, and about the strength found in many, in each other. I wouldn't say the novel was enjoyable, seeing as there was mostly pain inflicted and pain felt, but it will certainly stick with me for a while.

I received this copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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Cora Tea Party Princess says

5 Words: Power, control, feminism, survival, magic.

I knew from the moment I read about the Naandel in Maresi that I had to know more.

This book is written in a slightly different style from Maresi, with the narrative changing at intervals between different characters. It still has the same feel to the writing, it's still quite blunt and in your face at times, but I loved it. I could easily distinguish between the characters - and quickly realised that I had a favourite. I just love Garai, okay?

I would definitely say to read this after Maresi, even though it is set before. It just felt more natural to read them in that order.

Cisz Strasters says

"Anji schenkt leven en voorspoed, als je haar water op het juiste moment gebruikt." ~ p35.

Wat een prachtig verhaal!! Ik vind het gewoon jammer dat hij alweer uit is. Ik ben echt door de pagina's heen gevlogen, en elke letter opgezogen alsof het de laatste was....

"Ik was dan van andersmans dromen af, maar die van mezelf waren ook niet fraai." ~ p155.

Naandel is het tweede deel uit de Kronieken van het Rode Klooster en verteld het verhaal van de Oerzusters. Je leest de memoires opgeschreven door de vrouwen zelf, opdat de herinneringen nooit vergeten zullen

worden. Een verhaal van 8 sterke vrouwen, wiens levens onlosmakelijk met elkaar zijn verbonden, of ze nu willen of niet, alle gevangen door de macht van één man, Iskan. Je leest hoe de sterkte vrouwen gebroken worden, hoe ze hun eigen krachten verliezen, hoe verdriet hun leven tekent, maar ook hoe sterk zij uiteindelijk blijken te zijn. Echt een prachtig verhaal die mijnsinziens de YA is ontgroeid en zich gevormd heeft tot een prachtige roman. Ik heb genoten van elk verhaal van de vrouwen en de manier waarop zij zijn samengekomen tot 1 verhaal. Turtchaninoff heeft zich in dit tweede deel echt overtroffen door een prachtige geschiedenis neer te zetten van de vrouwen die je in het eerste deel slechts oppervlakkig heb leren kennen.

"Ze was niet zo moedig dat ze haar dood met open ogen tegemoed kon treden." ~ p289.

Echt een dikke 5 sterren voor dit prachtige boek. En ik hoop echt dat er nog vele verhalen zullen volgen van deze auteur. Haar manier van schrijven neemt je mee alsof je er zelf bij bent en er vanaf een afstand naar mag kijken. De manier waarop zij de emoties van personages kan omschrijven, maken dat je voelt wat je leest. Echt heerlijk!!!

Karyn Silverman says

An intense, painful but ultimately uplifting read. This will be triggering for many - the violence against women is so present, and while not graphic, it's descriptive enough to be viscerally uncomfortable. But this is also a testament to sisterhood and the power of women. The emphasis on the small secret magics of women and the abuses of power-hungry men (mostly just one) make this a good readalike for A Thousand Nights, but this is, I think, the stronger — and harder — read. Also despite being book 2 this is a full standalone, although now I want to reread Maresi to see the island's heritage in a new light.

Kristine says

Feminist fantasy!

Bet ?oti lab? noz?m?. Sp?c?g?ks, kr?sain?ks un s?p?g?ks st?sts par Mar?si, t?da pieaugušo versija autores iepriekš?jai gr?matai.
