

### Chapter 1 : Finnikin of the Rock | Reading After Midnight | Reading After Midnight

*Finnikin of the Rock is a journey. The journey of Lumatere people who struggle to survive after their exile. The journey of Lumatere people who struggle to survive after their exile. I'll be honest, I didn't expect it to move me so much - a.*

But all safety is shattered during the five days of the unspeakable, when the king and queen and their children are brutally murdered in the palace. Ten years later, Finnikin is summoned to another rock--to meet Evanjalín, a young novice with a startling claim: Balthazar, heir to the throne of Lumatere, is alive. Instead, her leadership points them perilously toward home. Does Finnikin dare believe that Lumatere might one day rise united? In a bold departure from her acclaimed contemporary novels, Printz Medalist Melina Marchetta has crafted an epic fantasy of ancient magic, feudal intrigue, romance, and bloodshed that will rivet you from the first page. Finnikin of the Rock is a book I should have read a while ago. No idea, but I am glad I did this summer. Although it took a bit to get into the novel, I soon found myself captivated by the world. She really is the one that makes quite an impression on first meeting her. She starts off as a mute, who has had a vision of the heir to Lumatere and transforms as a character by the end of the book into something new. Evanjalín is brave and keeping a secret along with years of struggle leading up to her meeting Finnikin. Finnikin has been struck with the idea that his childhood friend and heir to the throne is still alive, which sets him on a course to break the curse that has taken over his home for 10 years. With the help of his mentor, Sir Topher and the unpredictable Evanjalín he will find himself closer to making that dream come true. There are struggles ahead and he is definitely tested time and time again. I enjoyed the flashbacks to what occurred in the past and the story that unfolded there. I mostly enjoyed Evanjalín who kept Finnikin on his toes. Also, why the heck did they save the thief who tried to rape Evanjalín? I believe the next book is from his point of view. There was possibly too much adult feel to it maybeâ€ the characters were somewhat cold and unlikeable. There was so much coldness and darkness in this book. I felt like she pegged him for her future King and forced herself into liking him, because he honestly did not do much to make himself all that romantic towards her. In fact, in the end he just kept avoiding her like the plague. There was a lot of rape and blood and torture and more blood. I wanted to love this book and towards the end, I remember being enraptured in what would happen nextâ€ Especially as we met more interesting characters like the Monts, who really were colorful and possibly my favorite part of the book.

**Chapter 2 : Recaptains Â» Finnikin of the Rock by Melina Marchetta**

*Finnikin of the Rock is a rare gem in an overcrowded genre. I had purchased the series and let it sit on my shelves for over a year, bypassing it every time I went to.*

Strange new worlds, love it. The Lumaterans have been expelled from their ancestral lands because of a curse after allowing an illegitimate ruler to ascend to the throne and cause a massacre. While there are various political machinations at work, what really shone for me was the portrayal of asylum-seekers in Finnikin of the Rock. I drew a lot of parallels while reading this book I started actually about a month ago and slowly worked my way through it with my experience in Greece, which has a lot of refugees and displaced people. Melina Marchetta definitely ramps it up a lot, but that definite sense of displacement and hopelessness is extremely prevalent and realistic from what I encountered in Athens. Some of these nations are benevolent and generous, others are cruel and deadly hosts. He writes down the experiences of these peoples in The Book of Lumatere. Melina is also not afraid to reject stereotypical character tropes. Evanjalin is the most conniving, ruthless, and strong out of the men she encounters. She calls out the other characters for their behaviour especially Finnikin , and lies and schemes in order to obtain her goals, which she remains mysterious about for much of the book. I loved seeing a female character like this, totally dominating yet being herself. Finnikin on the other hand is often lost, confused, arrogant, generous, and frankly, sometimes a complete a-hole. I loved him for that, and I loved Melina for making him like that. The worldbuilding in particular was fantastic. I enjoyed learning about the different kinds of people living in the small kingdom of Lumatere, and their statuses after their expulsion. They all had their own subcultures and stereotypes of one another, but these differences marked their closeness as a large extended family rather than a kingdom. The other kingdoms were interesting to explore with the characters as they were forced to deal politically and violently with other countries and their military. Each of the countries had their own policy in treating the Lumaterans as well. I had a few difficulties really understanding what was going on at points, however. Even at some points I would ask myself, what is going on?! Instead of telling the reader how confused the protagonist is, Melina makes the reader as confused! So while this often worked, sometimes I just got really frustrated with not knowing at times what I was supposed to take away from a story, or a conversation, or even an action scene. I also felt kind of aimless in this type of confusion. Usually I write this much either because I really dislike a book or if I absolutely love it. Close X Follow us.

*Finnikin of the Rock is a young adult fantasy novel by Melina Marchetta. It follows the story of Finnikin of the Rock and his guardian who have been away from home for ten years, since the royal family was killed.*

But all safety is shattered during the five days of the unspeakable, when the king and queen and their children are brutally murdered in the palace. Ten years later, Finnikin is summoned to another rockâ€™to meet Evanjalín, a young novice with a startling claim: Balthazar, heir to the throne of Lumatere, is alive. Instead, her leadership points them perilously toward home. Does Finnikin dare believe that Lumatere might one day rise united? In a bold departure from her acclaimed contemporary novels, Printz Medalist Melina Marchetta has crafted an epic fantasy of ancient magic, feudal intrigue, romance, and bloodshed that will rivet you from the first page. I will always read and love Melina Marchetta. Be it contemporary, high fantasy, whatever genre she so chooses to write. Melina Marchetta could write non fiction stifles a shudder and I would read it. I will be a member of the Melina Marchetta fan club until the day I depart this earth. With that in mind, I hope you will pardon any repetitive gushing and fan girling you may encounter as you read this review. Known for her amazing YA contemporary novels like *On the Jellicoe Road* and *Saving Francesca*, Marchetta took the plunge into the world of epic fantasy with this work and friends, she has once again made a splash. She is a master at creating a character that is so true to life and believable that it will take your breath away. But high fantasy, as those who have read it will attest, is a wholly different animal. Works of high fantasy, in my experience, are not quick and easy reads. The author of an epic fantasy has her work cut out for her. Worlds, that may be very similar or very different to our own, must be crafted. Into this world the author must create people, places, and events that are foreign and familiar in equal measure. Great detail and development are a must, yet there should also be a mysteriousness that will keep the reader engaged and wanting to learn more. With *Finnikin of the Rock*, Marchetta delivers this and more. It can not be an easy task to create this fictional world and in addition devise an intricate plot with layered and complex characters at every turn, yet that is exactly what Marchetta does. In the pages of this story are cryptic prophecies and dark curses. Magic and adventure abound. There is heartbreak and triumph, and there is a steady, solid romance between our two main characters that is built upon layers of trust and mistrust, truth and deceit, alliances and betrayals. In *Finnikin*, Marchetta has written a hero who is not only brave and honest, but like so many of his countrymen, lost. Finnikin can be rash and judgemental, but he is also able to admit his flaws and weaknesses. So much has been taken from him in his lifetime, yet he carries on, always trying to accomplish his mission of finding a new home for his exiled people. Stepped over the body of one just my age. Do you know what went through my mind? And as I watched the lad carrying the dead, I thought the same. I imagined he would be a carpenter. We collect the names of our dead, we plan our second homeland, and we construct our government, but with nothing more than parchment and ink and sighs of resignation. I feared we would drown in it. She is fierce in her beliefs and will stop at nothing, including deception, betrayal, and manipulation to achieve her ultimate goal of reuniting her people and returning to her homeland. But she is so much more. She has suffered unspeakable horrors and witnessed hellish events in her young lifetime, yet she somehow manages to never falter in her belief and hope. Evanjalín is always a steady, faithful force moving forward and never stopping, willing to sacrifice whatever, or whomever, she must to fulfill her destiny. Despite everything they had seen, Evanjalín looked pleased with herself as they set off back to town. Instead of taking the main road, she crossed into the woods. The horse was mine. So I consider it mine. Finnikin tried to control his anger as caught up to her. I discovered that the thief spoke the truth and had sold the ring to a peddler from Osteria who happened to be traveling in these parts. And alongside moments like these are also beautiful passages of the love between the two: And this is the way Froi of the Exiles remembered that moment they entered the golden meadow that hurt his eyes but made him dream of all things good. On the one side of the path was a stone fence half-covered with overgrown weeds. On the other, olive groves with pomegranate and apple trees mixed. And there in the middle stood the priest-king like one of those ghosts who appear in dreams and Froi saw Evanjalín in the high grass, her face pale but not with death or fever. She wore flowers in her hair and Froi liked the way

their stems fit into the bunch of hair beginning to stick out of her head. And when Finnikin grabbed her to him and buried his face in her neck and then bent down and placed his mouth on hers, the others pretended that there was something very interesting happening in the meadow. The priest-king even pointed at the nothing they were pretending to see. Lady Beatriss, Lady Abian and the indomitable Tesadora are all forces to be reckoned with and, like their male counterparts, they are all complex and multi-layered adding yet another dimension to the tale. And the relationships these characters share with Finnikin, Evanjalín and each other are just as poignant and beautiful as the one between Finnikin and Evanjalín themselves. As with most great works of fantasy, there are connections to our own world written into the story being told. Religious unrest, division and persecution are all present, as are instances of scapegoating and genocide. And the atrocity of war, coupled with the horrible plight of refugees torn from their own homes and land, is most central to the story. Who are we without our words? Our punishment for the pathetic course of our lives. Now they sat in silence and relied on their children to translate for them as if they were helpless babes. Finnikin wondered what it did to a man who once stood proud. How could he pass on his stories without a language? When old friends and neighbors thought to be long lost are reunited, we feel their joy. When the long suffering exiles are once again brought together to take back their kingdom, we feel their pride and hope. And, without spoiling, I can tell you that everything does come full circle in the end. All the prophecies and dreams are interpreted and I was left feeling very satisfied with the outcome. And a little sad to be leaving all these wonderful people I had met and taken into my heart along the way. I wanted to end this with a little of what Marchetta had to say regarding the writing of this book: In this sense, the book is a search for identity in the same that my other novels are. This book is why I love Young Adult literature. I challenge you to read this book, or any book by Melina Marchetta for that matter, and remain firm in that opinion. This book is a masterpiece.

Chapter 4 : Finnikin of the Rock - Wikipedia

*Finnikin of the Rock has been traveling with his mentor, Sir Topher, for nearly ten years. Finnikin's father and mother died, along with most of the Lumeratens during the five days of unspeakable, when the Lumeraten country was taken over by an imposter king.*

Finnikin of the Rock and his guardian, Sir Topher, have not been home to their beloved Lumatere for ten years. Not since the dark days when the royal family was murdered and the kingdom put under a terrible curse. But then Finnikin is summoned to meet Evanjalín, a young woman with an incredible claim: Evanjalín is determined to return home and she is the only one who can lead them to the heir. As they journey together, Finnikin is affected by her arrogance. He begins to believe he will see his childhood friend, Prince Balthazar, again. And that their cursed people will be able to enter Lumatere and be reunited with those trapped inside. He even believes he will find his imprisoned father. But Evanjalín is not what she seems. Finnikin of the Rock is a journey. The journey of Lumatere people who struggle to survive after their exile. Now they sat in silence and relied on their children to translate for them as if they were helpless babes. Finnikin wondered what it did to a man who once stood proud. How could he pass on his stories without a language? People of Lumatere are going through all the trials refugee have to face. The only thing you need to know is this: As per usual with Melina Marchetta, the characterization is flawless. Both loveable and detestable. Each and every one of them found the path to my heart, each in their own way. Finally, what can I say about the writing apart from repeating how beautiful it is? I always trusted Melina Marchetta to create complex and so dynamic characters. Now I know she can also deliver full-detailed settings. Indeed her words resonate within us, mesmerizing, alternating between descriptions full of details and short sentences when the action requires it. He could not believe anyone who heard such stories of wickedness would allow it to happen again. I will never give away, trade or sell your email address. You can unsubscribe at any time.

**Chapter 5 : Finnikin of the Rock by Melina Marchetta**

*Some may call Finnikin of the Rock by Melina Marchetta a character-driven fantasy adventure and I'd agree wholeheartedly, yet it is more than just a story. Finnikin is a retelling of a boy and his friends who lived through the worse to reach the best, a story that left me truly speechless and eager for more.*

The three of them used to make pledges and enjoyed playing games - especially the one to capture the legendary silver wolf. One night, when Finnikin was nine, he had a dream where he had to sacrifice a pound of flesh for Lumatere. The next day, he made Lucian and Balthazar stand on the Rock of Three Wonders, at the crest of his village and make a blood pledge to protect the royal house of Lumatere. Three days later, the day of the Unspeakable occurred. After Trevanion refused to prostrate himself before the Impostor King, the new king punished him by accusing him and his betrothed Beatriss of the Flatlands of treason, sentencing Beatriss to death and Trevanion to life-long political imprisonment. Finnikin was present when the sentence was passed, and later recalls that it took three men to hold down Perri the Savage. On the day Serannonna was to be executed, Finnikin and Sir Topher were there in the square where it would take place. As Serannonna burned, she cursed Lumatere and her words caused the earth to crack in half for a time. To end her suffering, Finnikin climbed up a tree and threw his dagger at Serannonna, stabbing Serannonna in the heart and killing her instantly. This book recorded the stories of people in exile and the number of exile camps in the land. It also recorded the number of Lumaterans found dead in exile. Finnikin is greatly disappointed, for he hoped to find Balthazar, his old friend, there. Immediately he resents Evanjalín, and is annoyed when Sir Topher agrees to take Evanjalín with them when they leave Sendecane. Evanjalín claims that they must go to the Kingdom of Sorel, and Finnikin is aghast, for Sorel does not treat foreigners well. In Speranza, a town in Sarnak, Evanjalín and Finnikin go to buy supplies for the journey when Evanjalín runs away. Finnikin chases after her, and he finds her confronted by a group of thieves. Later he realizes that he was annoyed that Evanjalín had taken charge. The next day, Finnikin wakes to find Evanjalín gone, and realizes that Evanjalín has returned to Speranza to find the thief who stole her ring. Sir Topher orders Finnikin to go after her, and with some reluctance, Finnikin does. The thief says that he pawned it. Finnikin decides to take the thief with them, for if they do not, the thief would come after them with a group of thieves. Sir Topher agrees to take the thief with them to Sorel, and the group travels through Charyn, where they meet a camp of Lumateran River exiles. They stay the night there, and Finnikin tells the story of how his father and Lady Beatriss of the Flatlands fell in love. Later, the leaders of the camp tell them that Lord August, now Ambassador for Belegonia, had stopped in the camp and wanted Finnikin and Sir Topher to come to Belegonia to discuss the future of Lumatere. Finnikin does not want to go, and argues with Sir Topher about this, but Sir Topher makes him go, and tells him to bring Evanjalín with him. At the home of Lord August, Finnikin speaks to him, and demands an audience with the King of Belegonia. Lord August refuses, saying that the King has no interest in carving up his land, but would sponsor them if they return home to Lumatere. Finnikin is angered and frustrated by this, as he believes that Lumatere is lost forever and that the only hope for their exiles is a piece of land from Belegonia. Lord August says that if Finnikin tells him information that he does not already know, then the King will help them. Before Finnikin can respond, Evanjalín speaks for the first time. Both Finnikin and Lord August are stunned at her words. Then Evanjalín surprises Finnikin even more by asking August if he would return to Lumatere if he has nothing to go back to. Lord August says yes. Evanjalín shocks him even more by replying in the Belegonian tongue. This makes Finnikin even more suspicious of her, and he believes that she is no simple novice. Finnikin passes them unnoticed, but Evanjalín is noticed and is forced to her knees as the guards stick their fingers down her throat, checking for disease. Finnikin is furious and wants to stop them, but Sir Topher snaps that he is putting her life at risk, and that stops Finnikin. When they set up camp in the forest, Finnikin follows Evanjalín as she walks near the edge of a cliff-top, and warns her not to go too far away. She asks him what he is thinking, and Finnikin realizes that she wants to know his hopes and dreams. He tells her of his life as a child in Lumatere, and stories of the royal family. Finnikin begins to trust Evanjalín. Later, Finnikin notices Evanjalín looking tense and worried. They demand to know who is the one among them who

has been claiming that he is the heir to Lumatere. Sir Topher says that they are only merchants, and that they have no one they want. Feeling betrayed, Finnikin is arrested and taken to the Mines of Sorel. He says that Evanjalín told him to escape with Finnikin from the Mines. Trevanion wants to see Finnikin free, but does not want to escape himself. After their escape, Finnikin is furious with Evanjalín for betraying him. He refuses to speak to her. In the town of Speranza, Finnikin wakes to find Evanjalín gone. He is told by the stableboy that there is an exile camp east of the town, and Finnikin immediately realizes that this is where Evanjalín must have gone. When he arrives at the camp he is almost overwhelmed by the size and despair of the camp. A man bumps into him and begs him not to forget them. He tells Finnikin that the Priestking is there in the fever camp. Finnikin walks away, shocked, his hand over his mouth. Finnikin finally finds Evanjalín in the camp, a dead babe in her arms, searching for something. She died earlier, the babe attached to her breast. She finally finds where the mother lays, and Finnikin takes the babe from her and leaps down into the grave pit and places the babe in the arms of its mother. Sorrow consumes him, and his eyes fill with tears. Finnikin notices how different the Priestking looks from when he was in Lumatere. After a brief conversation, the Priestking dismisses them, and Finnikin turns to go, but Evanjalín tells the Priestking that Sir Topher and Trevanion are in the area. The Priestking then agrees to speak with them. On the way back to Speranza, Evanjalín chooses to walk by the river, saying that it has nice scenery. Finnikin cannot see anything nice about it. The river is crowded with the slave traders from Sorel and their slaves. Finnikin realizes why Evanjalín wanted to walk by the river when he sees the thief from Sorel among the slaves for sale. Finnikin begins to do so, but Evanjalín stops him, saying that they are going to steal the thief. When the thief is bought by someone, Finnikin and Evanjalín follow him and manage to steal him from the buyer. Evanjalín tells the boy that she owns him now. When they return to the inn in Speranza, Evanjalín tells Sir Topher that she has thought of a new set of bonds for the boy like he suggested once. Evanjalín just says that everyone has to have a name. They tell Sir Topher and Trevanion of their meeting with the Priestking and the group return to the camp to speak to him. However, after a conversation with Evanjalín in which she explains her gift of walking the sleep and why she believes they should return to Lumatere, Trevanion is convinced and decides to return to Lumatere, but says that first he must find his Guard who he believes are living in one of the rock villages in Yutlind. Thus the group begin the journey to Yutlind. In the town of Sif, Trevanion and Finnikin talk to the Captain of the Myrinhall to ask him to let them join them on their journey through the mouth of the river Yack. Finnikin and Trevanion then decide to leave Evanjalín, Sir Topher and Froi behind and return for them after they have found the Guard, believing that the journey will be too dangerous for them. Finnikin especially does not want any harm to come to Evanjalín. However, when they tell the others of their plans, Evanjalín objects to them. Finnikin tries to persuade her, telling her of the dangers, but ends up getting into a fight with Evanjalín about it. That I found a way of getting your father out of the mines while you left him there to rot for years? Sir Topher tells Finnikin that the group must stay together, and so they go onto the ship. Finnikin is furious at Evanjalín for most of the sea voyage and is satisfied that Evanjalín is forced to spend most of her time vomiting over the side of the ship. However, he still feels compelled to watch over her, afraid that one of the crew might take advantage of her. As the Myrinhall sails down the river Yack, the ship is attacked by the Southern Yut warriors. Arrows shoot towards the ship, and the captain is killed. Finnikin and Trevanion shoot back at the Yuts as the crew try to turn the ship around. At first Trevanion tells Sir Topher and the others to stay with the ship, but when more Yuts are seen shooting arrows from the trees, and some are seen swimming towards the ship, Trevanion tells the group to get off the ship and onto the east bank. Finnikin goes to where Evanjalín and Froi are hiding behind some crates to make sure they do as told. When Froi shows reluctance to leave, Finnikin grabs him by the hair and shows him the battle, and helps him over the side of the boat. He then helps Evanjalín, who cannot swim. Sir Topher then goes, helping Evanjalín. At the top of the mast he loosens the sails, and sees that Sir Topher, Evanjalín and Froi have made it to the east bank and are hiding there. He also sees his father finish fighting and go over the side of the boat to join the others. The Yuts see Finnikin clinging to the mast, and shoot at him. Finnikin falls into the water, and is dragged to the east bank by Trevanion. The group is forced to spend the night in the river water because the Yuts have them surrounded. Finnikin tells Sir Topher that he can speak to the Yuts, and tell them that they come in peace and acknowledge their right to Yutlind Sud. However,

Evanjalín says that these Yuts are not speaking common Yut. For the next few days, Finnikin is consumed by fever and dreams of Seranonna and how he killed her while she was burning at the stake.

**Chapter 6 : Book Review: Finnikin of the Rock – The Book Monsters**

*Finnikin of the Rock is the story of people who try to step forward, and forward, and forward Until perhaps, one day, perhaps they'll share a land called home again. Until perhaps, one day, perhaps they'll share a land called home again.*

Finnikin of the Rock and his guardian, Sir Topher, have not been home to their beloved Lumatere for ten years. Not since the dark days when the royal family was murdered and the kingdom put under a terrible curse. But then Finnikin is summoned to meet Evanjalín, a young woman with an incredible claim: Evanjalín is determined to return home and she is the only one who can lead them to the heir. As they journey together, Finnikin is affected by her arrogance. He begins to believe he will see his childhood friend, Prince Balthazar, again. And that their cursed people will be able to enter Lumatere and be reunited with those trapped inside. He even believes he will find his imprisoned father. But Evanjalín is not what she seems. In short Finnikin and Sir Topher meet Evanjalín, and follow her on a journey to find the heir to the throne of Lumatere. He was believed to be dead, but Evanjalín claims that he is alive and in hiding. On their journey to find Prince Balthazar, Evanjalín helps Finnikin reunite with his father, Trevanion, who had been imprisoned. At the end of their journey, they learn that Prince Balthazar is not alive and Evanjalín was lying. Isaboe and Finnikin are able to break the curse on Lumatere, get rid of the imposter king, and begin the process of restoring Lumatere. She becomes Queen, and Finnikin will be her king. What went down During the five days of the unspeakable, the entire royal family of Lumatere is murdered and a curse is put on the kingdom. All of its people are trapped inside the kingdom and cannot escape. It is also impossible for anyone enter the kingdom unless the curse is broken. They learn of a young novice, Evanjalín, who claims that Prince Balthazar is still alive and in hiding. When they go back for her ring, they end up with a horse and the thief, Froi. Evanjalín betrays Finnikin to soldiers in Sorel, and he is imprisoned. While Finnikin was imprisoned, Froi attempts to rape Evanjalín so she sells him to slave traders in Sorel. They convince some of the exiles that is time to return to Lumatere, but they part ways and vow to reunite as soon as they have found Prince Balthazar. Evanjalín reveals that she walks the sleep of the Lumateran people and claims that there is something evil happening to the girls of the kingdom. When they reach Yutlind, they are attacked and their ship sinks. Finnikin is wounded, and the group Finnikin, Topher, Trevanion, Evanjalín and Froi hides in the swamp. Evanjalín helps negotiate peace with the Yut people. Trevanion is finally reunited with his men. Froi, Evanjalín and the Priestking stay behind at barn so that they can rest in safety while the men continue on. Evanjalín and the Priestking get sick with the fever and close to death, so Froi departs to try and find Finnikin in time to save them. The men are able to return in time to help Evanjalín and the Priestking. Evanjalín admits that Balthazar is dead and that she lied to get everyone to gather the exiles and follow her back to Lumatere. Froi and Evanjalín leave the others behind because everyone is so angry with her lie. Finnikin has a change of heart, and he decides to follow Evanjalín. They learn that Evanjalín and Froi have been captured and are under guard in a Charynite exile camp. Finnikin reunites with Lucian of the Monts, his childhood friend. Together with the other men, they free Froi and Evanjalín from captivity. Lucian and Finnikin talk about their pledge wounds, and Lucian reveals that Evanjalín is actually Isaboe. He learns what happened on the night of the unspeakable – the story of how Balthazar sacrificed himself and helped save his sister. Finnikin and Isaboe break the curse on Lumatere and everyone is finally able to enter its gates. There is a fierce battle as they fight to take back their land. They are able to defeat the imposter king, and Lumatere is under the leadership of Queen Isaboe. Trevanion learns that his wife, Beatriss, is still alive. However, she has a daughter by another man, and there is a huge rift between the two that prevents them from rekindling their former relationship. How did it end? Finnikin stays away from Isaboe for a while because he is angry with her for lying. He is finally able to acknowledge his feelings for Isaboe, and he goes to the palace to propose marriage to her. He offers himself to her – the two debate the dynamics of their future relationship before they agree that she will be Queen and he will be her king.

### Chapter 7 : Finnikin of the Rock Summary and Analysis (like SparkNotes) | Free Book Notes

*"Finnikin of the Rock" is possibly the best fantasy book that I have listened to in \*years!\* I'm not even exaggerating a little bit. This is an epic quest told in this deliciously compact format.*

You and I were supposed to be enjoying the beginning of a beautiful friendship, walking into the sunset together. Alas, no walking into the sunset was meant for us. De Dear Finnikin of the Rock, what happened? You seemed to have the whole package, after all. But just like in the aforementioned "Friends" episode, the delicious-seeming ingredients just did not produce a mind-blowing final product - to my utmost disappointment and sadness. Sadness, you hear that? Never ever, not even for a moment, was there any sense of danger to our characters. Never ever was there a feeling that they are about to embark on a journey that could be painful and lead to losses. No, nothing like that - even if we are faced with prison mines, a battlefield, a refugee camp plagued by deathly illness. No, everything was presented in a bright and happy light simply as another adventure at the end of which Finnikin and friends would - of course! My second stumbling block was the characterization of Evanjalín. I think there is a difference between a strong female character who is able to be a tough leader - and a bratty liar who is worshiped, for no apparent reason, by everyone she comes in contact with. So many things would have been much easier and much less frustrating had Evanjalín at any time decided to just talk to her companions instead of manipulating them into doing what works for her. And what does everyone do after learning about the aforementioned manipulation and lies? Thirdly, a question - how exactly does the nation of slightly over people develop several ethnic subgroups that are very distinct and apparently almost never intermix, all while living in close proximity? It just does not appear possible, and felt quite grating throughout the story. Fourthly, so many storylines and ideas seemed to be introduced just to be dismissed a few pages later. Evanjalín and the priest-king getting sick with the fever? Nevermind, all is behind-the-scenes fine without anything ever coming out of it. Being attacked by a seemingly brutal tribe? An upset man whose beloved has a child with another man? It was getting a bit ridiculous. Anyway, I was more than willing to overlook the flaws - I do that all the time, in the countless books that I love. But with this one, I just could not. Without you by my side. It was not meant to be, Finnikin.

### Chapter 8 : Finnikin of the Rock by Melina Marchetta book review

*Despite the horrific nature of the treason and ensuing wars, the power and redemption of hope is a strong theme. Compassion and forgiveness are also powerful themes.*

Add your rating See all 2 kid reviews. Then the entire royal family is brutally slaughtered by a new king who also burns those who worship a different goddess, eliciting a curse that raises a wall and imprisons the new king and those left behind in Lumatere, and plunges the other half into refugee camps and despair. At 19, Finnikin is still searching for a new homeland for those exiles. Led to a young mystic called Evanjalín, she convinces Finn and his mentor that the true heir of Lumatere still lives. Their quest to restore the rightful heir and thus defeat the curse separating them from their homeland leads to unexpected reunions and many dangerous battles for Finn as they raise troops. Evanjalín is a Joan of Arc-type heroine whose lies are as troubling as her powers, and as Finn falls in love with her he finds himself forced to choose between the country he fled and his own future. Continue reading Show less Is it any good? Political intrigue, epic adventures, and characters who sometimes struggle to do the right thing but who long to live up to their ideals and those of their families are brilliantly realised. Marchetta eloquently articulates the damage caused by violence to those who experience it, and the necessity of recognizing and repairing that damage with compassion and hope. Mystery, young love, great family relationships, unusual cultures, and compelling characters combine to create an epic that will be read repeatedly by fantasy lovers and will hook other readers with its interplay of darkness and light. Rich and complicated, with humor, wisdom, and surprising plot turns, this story also raises provocative moral issues, just as the best epic fantasies have always done. Continue reading Show less Talk to your kids about Families can talk about what drives Finnikin and his mentor to travel the world for 10 years. What keeps them from giving up the search for a new homeland for the other exiles? What inspired the pledge that Finnikin made with his two best friends at the age of 9? What inspired their culture to raise their children to hold such devotion to their country? What were those values? As Finnikin and Evanjalín travel back to Lumatere they are reunited with many loved ones. Which revelation was the most surprising? Evanjalín has hidden many things about herself. What was the source of her strength, do you think?

### Chapter 9 : BOOK REVIEW “ Finnikin of the Rock (Lumatere Chronicles #1) by Melina Marchetta |

*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.*

Not since the dark days when the royal family was murdered and the kingdom put under a terrible curse. But then Finnikin is summoned to meet Evanjalín, a young woman with an incredible claim: Evanjalín is determined to return home and she is the only one who can lead them to the heir. As they journey together, Finnikin is affected by her arrogance. He begins to believe he will see his childhood friend, Prince Balthazar, again. And that their cursed people will be able to enter Lumatere and be reunited with those trapped inside. He even believes he will find his imprisoned father. But Evanjalín is not what she seems. I was really looking forward to this after reading *Jellicoe Road* and loving it to death. As any other first fantasy book of a series, this one was mostly based on world building than anything else. It was slow on some parts and exciting in others. At one point it did get a bit draggy that I was more on skimming rather than reading the novel, but thankfully it got back on track and was filled with juicy action and unsuspected plot twists! It can be far more powerful than swords and arrows. *Sands of Time* while reading this. The settings and plots were two totally different identities but my mind kept playing back the scenes of *Dastan and Tamina* as Finnikin and Evanjalín. I have completely fallen in love with the Lumatere Chronicles and cannot wait to pick up *Froi of the Exiles* and *Quintana of Charyn*! This is Finnikin asking you if you would like to embark on this journey. More quotes I liked from the book: Who are we without our words? I feared we would drown in it. Rather than float into nothing. She cupped his face in her hands. Because nothing we are about to do is going to be easy and I need you by my side.