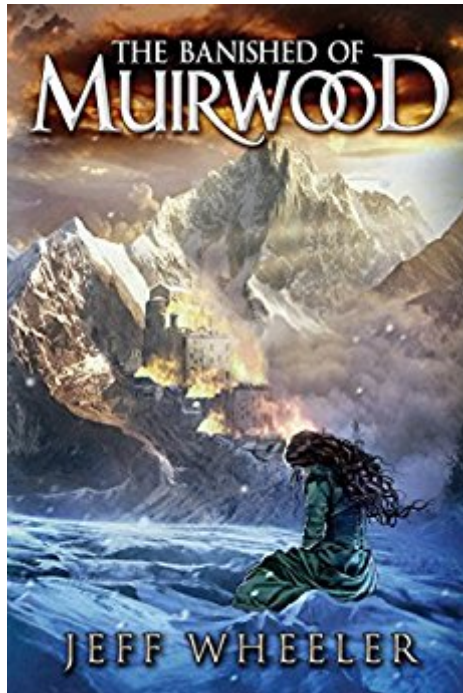




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The Banished Of Muirwood (Covenant Of Muirwood Book 1)



Synopsis

In a world full of magic and mystery, eighteen-year-old Maia is the exiled princess of Comoros and rightful heir to the throne. Forced to live as a servant in her enemy's home, Maia flees her captors and begins a perilous quest to save her people. To survive, she must use magic she has learned in secret despite the fact that women are forbidden to control it. Hunted by enemies at every turn, Maia realizes that danger lurks within her, too. Her powers threaten to steal not only her consciousness but also her sense of right and wrong. Can she set herself free and save the realm she loves even if her people have forgotten her? In bestselling author Jeff Wheeler's fantasy epic, the answer may be only the beginning to Maia's journey throughout the mystical land of Muirwood.

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Customer Reviews

I've read and greatly enjoyed the author's other Muirwood books, so of course on beginning this series my mind was making comparisons and sizing up the new

offering against the old. Banished passed that test without me realising it, because I very quickly forgot to compare as the story swallowed me whole and all I wanted to do was to find out what was going to happen next. From time to time I felt that there was less description of surroundings and the intricacies of daily life than in the earlier series; I didn't have the taste of crisp apples on my lips or quite feel that I had grown up with Maia the way I was attached to Lia, but this did not detract from the reading experience. It soon became plain that many of the details were there, just presented in a different way to what I was initially expecting. I surprised myself by wanting to read this book again as soon as I finished it the first time: can't say I remember the last time I did that so quickly. Second time around (I'm about a third of the way through) I am really enjoying picking up details and connections that I missed in my hurry to initially unfold the plot. Flashbacks were an interesting way of gaining background information. It was easy to follow and felt like putting a jigsaw puzzle together. Very clever actually, and a large part of the reason I started reading the book again. The symbolism is wonderful, so very thought provoking and deep on many levels. I absolutely love the way the female protagonist faces her struggles, and the way she copes with what happens to her I found personally inspiring. She is very human, certainly not a perfect heroine, and this makes her easy to relate to. Trite sounding or not, reading this book gave me a sense of hope regarding my own challenges. My review would not be complete without mentioning the language and morals, and I'm happy to say there is good news (for people with standards similar to my own) on both counts. Why is it that so few authors represent bad language in a descriptive yet non-specific way? In this book Jeff Wheeler shows a dignified restraint that loses none of the impact expected from tense scenes. One example: "he swore at her, the words laced with anger and pain". Well done. So much better than including the curse words, while still making it clear that they were used. It is such a pleasure to find books where the author chooses not to present immorality either as acceptable, or in detail. Thank you to Mr Wheeler for a clean story. There was no sense of prudery, certainly plenty of realism, but also none of what some authors seem to think is an obligatory sex scene. The moral behaviour of the main characters was believable, and in every sense true to the story. All in all this was an excellent read. I am looking forward to reading the next book in this series, and seeing just how the intriguing relationships and plot lines unfold.

I really enjoyed the Wretched series, so was excited to jump into the next series. As I should have expected, the story is different, but the story-telling also takes a little getting used to (heavy use of flash-backs through dreams, a key part of the story line). While I was nervous after starting to read

it, the story began to open up as I got deeper into the book and in the end I was satisfied. Wheeler found a good point to stop this first book (tidying up some of the lingering questions) while leaving just enough bait out to draw you into the second book. Haven't started that one yet (needed to switch genres), but look forward to it.

Maia, the banished princess of Comoros, is on a quest to save her people. Her father's need for complete authority has led him to divorce his wife, disinherit her, and expel the magical order of the Dochte Mandar, making his kingdom spiral downward into chaos. With the help of the kishion, a killer sent by her father to protect her, and a hunter and his dog, Maia travels through distant lands in search of the lost abbey. She finds herself being hunted by not only the Dochte Mandar who will kill her if they catch her and find out who and what she is, but also the King of Dahomey. She must outrun all of them while still fending off the Myriad One inside her trying to take control. The Banished of Muirwood by Jeff Wheeler, was an entertaining read. I found the magic/religious system to be confusing. It tore me away from the story at times, trying to remember which guys were the good guys and which guys were the bad guys. Although as a whole the magic system was confusing, I did like certain aspects of it. The physical marks it left on the users body were something I haven't seen often and found interesting. The back and forth between the present and her past was a nice way to learn about Maia. She was a well-developed character I was able to identify with. Her internal struggles matched with her intelligence made her an interesting character. The people surrounding her were also similarly dynamic, with their own strengths and flaws. The many locations in the book were beautifully described and drew me into the story, letting me see what Maia did. Overall I enjoyed this book, and would recommend it to anyone looking to read a fantasy novel with a strong, female character.

As a huge fan of the previous Muirwood Trilogy I was looking forward to a great follow-up and wasn't disappointed. There was some initial concern that this might turn out to be a recycled Cinderella type plot. That was not the case. This is an epic fantasy story in it's own right! The only reason I didn't give it 5 stars is that I felt a little rushed to get caught up with the new heroine, what had transpired in the intermediate years as well as what had occurred to plunge the character into the current state of affairs. I felt a little hurried and finished the book with a slight feeling of dissatisfaction that lead me to go back and reread some bits. I fully expect the 2nd book to fill in some of the gaps.

This is the first work of Jeff Wheeler's that I've read and I look forward to finishing off the 3 book series. The story was well conceived and well written. There are no unbelievable feats (allowing, of course, for the magic) and the characters seemed real. The author did a good job explaining backfilling the story and the flashback method was used to nice effect.

This was a well thought out and written story with lots of characters, action and certainly more than a few twists. The only criticism I might have would be the objects and characters with strange names that never were explained fully. There are more books in the series and I believe this one ends in a manner both making you want to and need to read on.

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